NEW
IMPROVEMENTS
IN THE
ART of Midwifery.

SHEWING

I. The True CAUSES of the *moſt difficult* BIRTHS, the great Abuſe and Prejudice of forcing *Pains* by *Medicines*; and the *beſt Method* of *Delivering* WOMEN in ſuch CASES by the *Hand* only, without the Uſe of any *Inſtrument* whatſoever.

II. The MIDWIVES TOUCHSTONE, and SHIELD of Defence; or the certain *Marks* of knowing when a WOMAN is *Qualified* for *this Profeſſion*.

III. The Neceſſity of *Inſpecting* the *Bodies* of ſuch WOMEN as *die* in CHILDBED before *Delivery*, to diſcover whether the *Loſs* of the *Mother* and *Infant* be owing to the Negligence or Ignorance of the *Midwife*.

IV. A Detection of many *Errors* daily committed in the Practice of *Midwifery*, with ſeveral remarkable Caſes; and a *faithful Admonition* to all *Husbands*, who have any Regard to the ſaving of the Lives of their *Wives* and *Children*.

Tranſlated from the Latin *Original of*

HENRY *à* DEVENTER, M. D.

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M. DCC. XXVIII.

77...1540

TO

Dr. *COCKBURNE.*

SIR,

I HERE make you a Preſent, and, I doubt not, a very agreeable one, ſince it is the *Second Part* of the very eminent Dr. DEVENTER's Treatiſe of the *Divine Art of Midwifery*; an Art ſo obſcurely known, or rather gueſſed

at, by former Ages, and ſo bunglingly, wretchedly, and ſo deſtructively carried on by the Caprice of uninformed Pretenders, that very probably it might have remained for ever enveloped in the dark Shades of Stupidity and Ignorance, had not ſo generous a Hand as that of this Great Man reſcued it from that fatal Captivity, and ſhewn it to the World by this *New Light* of his, in its full Liberty and Luſtre, to his own immortal Honour, and the eternal Benefit of Mankind.

THE Preſent, I make you, Sir, is indeed but ſmall in Bulk, but rich in Value; it is a Jewel of great Price, more valuable than the orient *Ruby*; it hath been viewed with Admiration at each Metropolis of *Sweden* and *Denmark*, and its Splendors have illumined the Mountains of *Tyrol*.

It

It now ſhews itſelf to you in an *Engliſh* Collet, I have ſet it faithfully, and it is at your Service: for I know not who hath ſo much Right to this *Second* (but more glorious) Gem, as he, who hath with ſuch Accuracy of Judgment, ſo juſtly approved of the *Firſt*.

By this *Light*, Men will diſcover the horrid, and, if I may ſo ſay, the palpable Darkneſs and Ignorance of former Ages, and with Amazement wonder, how for ſuch long Periods of Time, People could be ſo much prejudiced by Education, as blindly to follow the traditionary Fooleries of their Anceſtors, venerable only for their Antiquity, and dance round in a Circle of mere uſeleſs theatrical Jargon of dogmatical Pedantry, too grave to ſtoop to be better informed by others, as a Diminution of their

Dignity, unworthily to learn Wiſdom from their Inferiors, by the novel Methods of *Experiment* and *Demonſtration.*

Men will now, it is to be hoped, ſee an end of all thoſe horrid, abominable, and moſt wicked Practices, through ſuch a deplorable and ſupine Ignorance, cruelly made uſe of by unskilful Pretenders to Midwifery in both Sexes, which this Author ſo juſtly complains of; an end to all thoſe Twiſtings, Contorſions, and breaking of Members, perforating of Sculls, hooking, taring, mangling, butchering and murdering of ſo many Infants and their Mothers, in difficult Births; whereas whether the Infant be dead or not in the *Uterus*, the Delivery might have been expedited in an Hour's time by the eaſy Method of this great Man, without

thoſe *Manual* and *Inſtrumental* Horrors, and which Method, for the general Uſe of Mankind, the Preſervation of ſo many innocent Infants and their Mothers, of all Ranks and Qualities, he has not only given the World in the *Latin*, but in *Dutch*, the Language of his Country.

The ſame Motive induced me to tranſlate it into *Engliſh*; nor ſhall I be concerned at the Objection which ſome malevolent Perſons may make, *viz. That the rendering Books of Phyſick into* Engliſh, *is too much the expoſing of the Myſteries of that Science, and an Encouragement to Quackery*; becauſe if thoſe who might make it, could but reflect a little with themſelves, they would ſee that this Objection deſtroys itſelf. For as *Quackery* is founded upon *Ignorance*, ſo whatever deſtroys the *Foundation* muſt ruin the *Superſtructure*

ſtructure. Quacks in all Arts will ceaſe to be ſo, when they ſhall be better inſtructed ; nor is *Science* confined to one Language alone : the *Romans* wrote their noble Sentiments in the *Roman* Tongue ; the Orations of *Cicero* were not ſpoken in *Greek*, nor did he fear they would encourage Pedantry by being delivered in *Latin.* How will ignorant Pretenders to any Art bluſh ! how will they be aſtoniſhed ! abaſhed ! confounded ! when they ſhall have no Excuſe, no Cover, no Refuge to retire to, for not being better inſtructed, on pretence of their not being acquainted with the *Latin* Tongue ! *Quackery*, and vain Pretences to Knowledge, in both Sexes, will be then no more. Thoſe, who are willing to be improved, will learn ; and the Unwilling, remaining in their Ignorance, will by this

this means be detected and abandoned.

This is what our Author very well knew, and therefore purſued his glorious Deſign; nor was he deterred by Malevolents, whom he rather pitied than was afraid of. He conſidered he lived in an ungrateful World, and how well ſoever he might merit from Mankind, yet he was convinced that a good Man, tho' he be certain he ſhall receive Ingratitude for all his good Offices, ſhould not, however, by ſuch Treatment, be hindered from perſevering in good Works; as knowing that he muſt not expect his Reward from Men, ſince the great Phyſician of us all, whoſe Life was nothing but *one continued Series of doing Good*, was therefore, and for no other Reaſon, ungratefully and moſt wickedly put

to

to a moſt cruel and ignominious Death.

Our Author is fully ſatisfied of this Truth, of whom I ſhall ſay but little, his Works proclaim the Man. Vain therefore, and ſuperfluous would it be in me, to attempt his due Praiſes: vain, becauſe it would be attempting an Impoſſibility; ſuperfluous, becauſe, it is what he neither wants, nor deſires. He has already had the Praiſes of an *Hoorne*, a *Keuſerle*, and a *Buchwald*; and, what is the greateſt Panegyric of all, the Approbation of a COCKBURNE.

Vain therefore, and ſuperfluous would be ſuch an Attempt: for which Reaſon, SIR, expect nothing like this to yourſelf from me: For were I ever ſo capable of, or rather did

did I not mortally hate the accoſting of a great Man with pompous and magnificent Expreſſion and ſonorous Periods; yet would I purpoſely omit them here, as too much ſavouring, as they are too frequently managed by the Generality of Dedicators, of what I abominate, a fulſome Adulation.

Men, the moſt praiſe-worthy, look the leaſt for Praiſe; and I never addreſs my ſelf to any one fond of Eulogy and Encomium: And therefore, as the Great DEVENTER, in very few words, and in a plain and ſimple manner, inſcribed this Treatiſe in *Latin* to the Famous *Boerhaave*, and two other Phyſicians, who are the Honour of his Country; ſo I, (his unworthy Tranſlator) without any previous Compliment, have the Happineſs of dedicating it in *Engliſh* to

One,

One, who is the Glory of Ours: who hath ſo evidently demonſtrated to the ignorant World, the true *Symptoms*, *Nature*, *Cauſe*, and *Cure* of that Malignant Diſtemper, which for ſo many Ages (as was the Art of Midwifery) had been merely gueſſed at, by Perſons who plume themſelves with vain Conceits of Knowledge, and a long Bead-Roll of Cant Terms; the Virulence of which they boldly attempted to eradicate, though they knew not ſo much as its Situation.

This Light of Yours, like that of the Great *Deventer*, (the Subject of this Treatiſe) hath dazzled and confounded the Ignorant and Malicious; which you have diſplayed in its full Splendour, and that with ſo much Perſpicuity of Thought, Solidity of Judgment, and rational Expreſſion,

preſſion, as evidently ſhew you a perfect Maſter of *Anatomy*, a juſt Judge of *Animal Oeconomy*, and a thorough Diſcerner of that, on which the whole immenſe Body of Medicine rolls, as on its Axis, GLANDULAR SECRETION.

Nor is this my bare Judgment only, but the Sentiment of One of the greateſt Phyſicians in the World, who opened himſelf to me after this manner with a ſenſible Satisfaction; who is a Lover of Science, wherever it be, too great of Soul to be biaſſed by Prejudice, Party, or mere Majority; but looks, as you do, with a generous Scorn and Contempt on thoſe, who, notwithſtanding all their mighty Clamour, approve, by their private Practice, of what they openly rail at, and condemn; and, like ſome abandoned wretched

wretched Women, are profuſely laviſh, on honeſt People, of thoſe civil Appellations, which peculiarly belong to themſelves.

I am, with all due Obſervance and Reſpect,

SIR,

Your Moſt Humble, and

Moſt Obedient Servant,

ROBERT SAMBER.

T O

The moſt Noble, moſt Learned, moſt Experienced Doctors,

Dr. HERMAN BOORHAAVE,

Doctor of Philoſophy and Phyſick, Profeſſor of Phyſick, Botany, Chymiſtry, and the Practical College.

Dr. HERMAN OOSTERDYK SCHACHT,

Doctor of Philoſophy and Phyſick, Profeſſor of Theoretical and Practical Phyſick, and the Practical College, Preſident of the College of Pharmacy.

Dr. BERNARD SIEGFRIED ALBINUS,

Doctor of Phyſick, and Profeſſor of Anatomy and Surgery.

Bright

Bright Lights of this Univerſity of Leyden, *and moſt famous Ornaments of the Faculty of* PHYSICK.

THESE

New Improvements in the *Art of Midwifery*, are, with all due Obſervance and Reſpect,

DEDICATED

BY

Henry à Deventer, M. D.

PRE-

PREFACE.

CORDIAL READER,

I is now above 22 *Years ſince my Book, which had for its Title,* Novum Lumen Obſtetricantium*, *came out in the vulgar Tongue* †, *with Hopes, that by this* New Light, *I might perſuade thoſe who practiſe*

* The *Firſt Part* came out under that *Latin* Title.

† The *Low Dutch* Language.

Midwifery, that the true Cauſes of the moſt difficult Births, *did not ſo much depend on the bad Poſitures of Infants in the Womb, as from the perverſe Situation of the Womb itſelf; which thing, to the beſt of my Knowledge then, and according to what I have been hitherto conſcious of, no Author before me ever had touched upon. And tho' this* New Light *ſhone not out to all Men, eſpecially thoſe who are always learning, but never know the Truth; it however proved of great Advantage to ſome Midwives, and many learned Men, who would not like Slaves ſervilely ſubmit to be bound down to the poſitive Aſſertions and* Ipſe Dixits *of the Antients; but received the Teſtimonies of Truth, founded upon manifeſt and undoubted Demonſtrations; of whom ſome gave me Thanks, either by themſelves in Perſon, or by Letter.*

And

And tho' this Book was publiſhed at firſt in two Languages only, the Dutch *and* Latin; *yet ſome learned Men would not hide this* New Light *under a* Buſhel, *but ſet it on a* Candleſtick, *and, without my Knowledge, put out Editions of it both in* Engliſh *and* High Dutch.

But tho' this New Light *was very troubleſome to the* dark Eyes *of ſome People, yet they could not* put it out, *nor hinder it, by little and little, to* ſhine out *more and more, and paſs from this Country to other Nations; and finding themſelves not able to withſtand the Truth, or amend the Work, they rather choſe to approve of it by their Silence, than to ſet themſelves up in Oppoſition to it with Infamy and Diſhonour. During the ſpace of* 22 *Years, the time ſince this* New Light *came out, I have not known any one of conſiderable Fi-*

gure write on this Art *of* Midwifery, *or to have produced any thing new in relation thereunto ; nor do I think any one will eaſily go about to attempt it.*

It is not, however, impoſſible, but that by continual Exerciſe, and diligent Obſervations in Practice, to improve what hath been hitherto ſaid on this Subject by ſome new Experiments : A Specimen of which I preſent the World with in this Farther Examination, *propoſing moreover ſome* Difficult Births, *the true Cauſes of which had not then as yet ſufficiently manifeſted themſelves to me, which I afterwards learnt, as alſo what neceſſarily I ought to know ; upon which I thought it my Duty to make them publick, that they may the better be ſerviceable to my Neighbour, and that due Thanks may be paid to God,*

God, the only Beſtower of all good Things.

This Farther Examination, *I thought beſt to publiſh, in a particular Treatiſe, tho' it be the Sequel, or Proſecution of a greater Work; and may, as a Supplement, be ſubjoined thereto. And this I did for the following Reaſons.*

1. Firſt, *That all they, who have already bought my firſt Book*, might not be obliged to buy a new one* †.

2. Secondly, *That all Men and Women, who have at heart the Health and Safety of their Families, might, with the ſmalleſt Expence and Pains,*

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* The *Firſt Part*, called in the *Engliſh Tranſlation*, *The Art of Midwifery improved.*

† He alludes, I preſume, to the *Dutch* Edition, where this *Secind Part* is printed and paged, ſo as to be bound up in the ſame Volume as the *Firſt.*

by reading this Farther Examination, *briefly, yet evidently perceive, with how much Prudence they ought to proceed, when their Wives or Daughters are in Labour.*

3. Thirdly, *by this* Farther Examination, *in a few Pages, I would excite and admoniſh* Midwives *in what principally belongs to their Duty; knowing that they will read over a little Book, which they may purchaſe for a ſmall Sum, rather than ſeek better to be inſtructed at greater Expence and Labour.*

4. Fourthly, *I thought the reading of this* Farther Examination *would not be ſo tedious to our* Illuſtrious Magiſtrates*, *whoſe every Moment of Time is very precious, but who in this ſhort Specimen will be able eaſily to*

* The *States* of *Holland.*

ſee

ſee and perceive the great Inconveniencies, Calamities and Miſeries, to which their Subjects are expoſed, thro' want of Neceſſary Helps in thoſe Straits, when their Wives and Daughters in Labour are either neglected, or by wicked Practices extremely tormented; and from which hitherto they have had no manner of Refuge, but only in their Tears, and with theſe have they hitherto bewailed the want of neceſſary Succour, and ever will, 'till it ſhall pleaſe the Illuſtrious Magiſtracy *to amend and make up again this Loſs and Damage, by applying to this Evil its proper Remedies.*

Perhaps it may not be diſagreeable to the Reader, to ſee together, with the Approbation, *ſome few Extracts, whence it may appear, what are the Sentiments of the Learned Phyſicians in reſpect of this* NEW LIGHT, *to perfect which, before*

before I died, I reſolved to add this Farther Examination *as a Supplement or Second Part; wiſhing, that it may ſo pleaſe God, the Eternal Lord and Governour of all Things, that this little Treatiſe may be ſerviceable for the Publick Good, and Comfort of the Afflicted; that his infinite Goodneſs, worthy of all Honour, may be praiſed and glorified, which will be a ſufficient Reward to me his meaneſt and moſt unworthy Servant,*

Henry *à* Deventer, *M. D.*

An Extract *of a* LETTER *of the most Learned* JOHN van HOORN, *Doctor of Physic at* Stockholm, *sent to* HENRY *à* DEVENTER, *M. D.*

Most Learned SIR,
and my Unknown Friend,

'THO' 'till now, there never hath 'passed any Familiarity between 'us, nor have I hitherto had any 'Correspondence with you by 'Letter; nevertheless, I thought it my Duty 'to inform you, in a few Lines, with what 'Pleasure of Mind I read over your *New 'Light**, (or *Art of Midwifery improved*) 'and, in my Judgment, Women in Labour 'cannot return you sufficient Thanks, for 'your voluntarily communicating to the 'World so Noble a Present.

'I confess, that I never hitherto have read 'any Author, nor ever spoke to any, who 'ever thought hereupon; so that your Book 'has the best Right to, and excellently me-'rits the Name of a *New Light*. Five

---

* The *First Part* of *The Art of Midwifery* had this Title, as I observed before.

'Years

'Years ago, I put out a very ſmall Treatiſe 'in the *Swediſh* Language relating to this 'Subject: for while I was in *France*, I ap- 'plied my ſelf with the utmoſt Diligence to 'this *Art*, and afterwards I diſputed at *Ley- 'den, for my Degree, on the Subject of a 'Præternatural Birth*: and becauſe I yet 'daily practiſe this *Art*, I could have wiſhed, 'that either your Book had come out ſooner 'or mine later than it did; for then it would 'have been put out with greater Perfection, 'and more ſerviceable to the Publick Good, as 'being illuſtrated with your Precepts in this '*Art*: for we learn, as long as we live, and 'our latter Days inform us better. I wiſh 'I could be ſo happy as perſonally to confer 'with the Author of this Book; but as this 'cannot be, yet we hope, that as you have 'put forth a *Great* and *New Light*, ſo you 'will ſtand to your Promiſe, *viz.* by com- 'municating your *Chirurgical Operations*, 'that the Learned World may thereby hold 'in greater Eſteem your Diligence and 'Erudition, and at the ſame time extol, 'with deſerved Praiſe, your ingenuous Can- 'dour of imparting what you know to others. 'This I hope with all my Soul; and, be- 'ſeeching Heaven to beſtow long Health up- 'on you, I ſubſcribe my ſelf,

Your moſt Humble Servant,

Stockholm,
1 Nov. 1702.

JOHN van HOORN, *M.D.*

Part

Part of a Letter *from the moſt Learned* FRANCIS KEUFFERLE, *Doctor of Phyſic at* Campidona, *at the ſtrait Entrance of the Mountains of* Tyrol.

Moſt Illuſtrious, and moſt Honoured Sir,

'TEN Years are now paſt, ſince, accidentally, your Book of the *Art of Midwifery*, which had been then three Years publiſhed, fell 'into my hands; which, when I found full 'of Love and Charity to our Neighbour, and 'ſupported with the moſt ſolid Foundations 'of Truth, I placed ſo much Confidence 'therein, that immediately, having ſent for a '*Midwife*, indued with the Diſpoſitions 'neceſſary for that Work, I, theoretically, at 'leaſt, inſtructed her with your Counſel and 'Admonitions; which having willingly re-'ceived, and ſucceſsfully put in practice, it is 'a wonder how much Benefit thereby accru-'ed to the Public, ſo that the ſaid *Midwife* 'is not only called abroad to Women in La-

'bour

'bour of the Prime Nobility, but ſeveral 'other Women alſo, who have hearkned to 'her Inſtructions: ſo that all Women in La- 'bour, round the whole Country, now will 'not be helped by any other Method but 'yours; (whereas before, when the whole 'Affair was left to Nature, innumerable In- 'fants either died with their Mothers, or be- 'ing moſt wretchedly conſtituted, drag on a 'lingering Life;) for which you muſt expect 'eternal Honour to your Name, and great 'Reward from the Mercy of God. Fare- 'well, moſt illuſtrious Man! and vouchſafe 'him the Happineſs of your Favour; him, 'who as long as he lives, will be the moſt 'faithful Honourer of your Name and Cha- 'racter.

From Campidona, *at the ſtrait Entrance of the Mountains of* Tyrol, 7 Jul. 1714.

FRANCIS KEUFFERLE, *M. D.*

Monſieur

Monſieur le Docteur, *
and my moſt Honoured Friend!

'YOUR Book, intitled, *Operationes Chirurgicæ Novum Lumen exhibentes Obſtetricantibus, Lugduni Batavorum* 1701, *impreſſum*, ſince I have read it, 'is very dear to me. If I had not read a 'great many others, who have written on 'the ſame Subject, I could never have be-'lieved that ſo many Ages could have been 'ignorant, that the *Matrix* falls in ſome Wo-'men with Child, ſometimes before, ſome-'times behind, and ſometimes on one ſide. 'But the Reading of *Mauriceau*, *Portail*, '&c. ſufficiently ſhews, that they believed, 'that in difficult Births, the Infant might be 'either ill-turned, or be too great (compara-'tively) to the Big-bellied Woman, and her 'Parts.

'Monſieur le Docteur, I congratulate you 'with all my heart on this Diſcovery, ſo uſeful 'to Mankind. I deſire you, Sir, if there be an '*Epitome* of your ſaid Book, to ſend me one. 'Our *Midwives* are very ignorant in this 'Country; but becauſe I have great diffi-'culty to underſtand *Dutch*, I ſhall wiſh

* *This Letter is in* French, *the other two in* Latin.

that

'that ſuch Extract of your Book might be 'either in *Latin* or *French*. If perchance 'you ſhould have one of your Hand-writing 'and it ſhould come into *Denmark*, it would 'make its Fortune; or if there be any 'Phyſician, or Surgeon, that is well inſtructed 'by you, and has had good Experience, we 'ſhall receive him here with a great deal of 'Pleaſure, and he might live very well, be-'cauſe we have only one Phyſician here, 'Dr. *Hacquard*, Jun. who is like to die; ſo 'that here is neither Phyſician, nor Surgeon, 'who might be aſſiſting in a Difficult Birth. 'Adieu, Monſieur, *&c.* I am for ever,

Monſieur le Docteur,

Your moſt Humble

and Faithful Servant,

Copenhagen this 26th of *March*, 1716.

JOHN de BUCHWALD,

Chief Phyſician and Firſt Surgeon of His Daniſh *Majeſty.*

The

The APPROBATION.

THE *Professors of* Physic, *in the University of* Leyden, *being desired by the most experienced* HENRY *à* DEVENTER, *to peruse his Treatise, Intituled,* Operationum Chirurgicarum Novum Lumen exhibentium Obstetricantibus, Pars Secunda*, *and to give their Judgment thereupon ; have read over the same, and have judged it most worthy to be committed to the Press, and communicated to the Public.*

H. OOSTERDYK SCHACHT,

Leyden,
*Aug.*6th, 1723.

Dean of the Faculty of *Physic.*

* The *Latin* Title of this *Second Part.*

CON-

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THE

THE ART OF MIDWIFERY *Improved.*

PART II.

CHAP. I.

Of a Difficult Birth, *occaſioned by the Infant's lying on his* Back *in a Womb propendulous, or hanging forwards, with the hinder part of his Head falling into the* Pelvis.

I HAVE heretofore treated of a *difficult Birth*, occaſioned by ſuch a perverſe Situation of the Womb, when its Bottom fell very low into the *Abdomen*; and demonſtrated the true Cauſe of thoſe miſerable Tricks and wretched Practices ſome People had recourſe to, and their miſchievous

Conſequences, as may be ſeen elſewhere*. But I did not in that place treat of ſuch *difficult Births*, as are occaſioned, when in a Womb thus propendulous, or hanging forwards in the *Abdomen*, the Infant lying on his *Back* falls with the *hinder part* of his *Head* into the *Pelvis*; and there, as it for the moſt part happens, adheres in ſo fixed a manner, as it is impoſſible to bring it into the World. And becauſe ſuch a Situation is the Cauſe of *a moſt difficult Birth*, I thought it neceſſary to diſcourſe of it in this place more at large, according to the ſeveral Experiments I have had thereupon.

No one ought to doubt, but that an Infant in a Womb thus poſited may lie as well on his *Back* as on his *Belly*; but no one, but he who has experienced it, will eaſily believe it poſſible, that ſome Wombs with their Bottom can fall ſo low into the *Abdomen*, as I my ſelf have, by an accurate Obſervation, truly been ſatisfied of: And therefore no one ought to think it ſtrange, that I have not, before now, written of this perverſe Poſition of the Womb and Infant; for in ſuch like Caſes I ought to ſuſpend paſſing Judgment, as being afraid leſt perhaps I might err and be deceived in ſo doing. But often repeated and accurate Obſer-

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* See, *The former Part of* Dr. Deventer's *Midwifery*, *Ch.* 46. *pag.* 248 & ſeq. *Printed for* E. Curll, Ann. 1706.

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vations have at length taken away from me all manner of Doubt, and entirely aſcertained the Truth of the Thing; and therefore no one ought to doubt of the Truth of this Aſſertion, tho', as far as I know, I may be the firſt that ſhall diſcover to the World this *untoward* Poſition of the Womb and Infant, and demonſtrate the bad Succeſſes which have thence enſued.

I ſay therefore, that it ſometimes, nay very often, happens in ſome Women, which any one will eaſily believe, that the Bottom of the Womb may fall very far down into the *Abdomen* of the Woman, whoſe *Abdomen* alſo lies very low; and that too in ſuch a manner, that the Length of the Womb, together with the *Vagina*, may deſcribe a broken Curve; and often alſo to that degree as almoſt to perfect a Rectangle: and when it ſo happens, that in a Womb thus perverſly ſituated, the Infant lies reſupine, or on his Back, thence neceſſarily and unavoidably follows a *moſt difficult Birth*, and for the moſt part cauſes the Death both of Mother and Child, becauſe ſuch Women, for the moſt part, *die* before they are *delivered*.

If any one ask why ſuch a Situation of the Mother and Infant is ſo dangerous? And almoſt always mortal to both? I anſwer, for theſe Reaſons following.

1. *Becauſe Midwives being ignorant of the Danger, do not deſire timely Aſſiſtance.*

And what Wonder is it that Midwives ſhould not know the Danger of this Poſiture, ſince ſuch a Poſiture of the Womb and Infant has hitherto eſcaped them, and all the World? And what Wonder is it that ſuch a Poſiture has hitherto been unknown to the World, ſince (I am very well ſatisfied) not one, amongſt all the Authors, who have written before me, ever knew this Situation, or has at leaſt deſcribed it? And ſince ſuch a Poſiture is, and hath hitherto been unknown to every Midwife, it will not ſeem ſtrange to any one, that hitherto all Midwives have been, and yet are unapt and unable to ſearch out and diſtinguiſh ſuch a Poſiture of the Womb and Infant from others.

That it is a Truth, that this Poſiture hath hitherto been unknown to all Midwives, I judge alſo from this, *viz.* That hitherto no Midwife ever was ſo knowing as to tell me, that the Womb and Infant were thus placed, when I have been called to deliver a Woman, where Matters have taken this Turn.

2dly, *Becauſe at preſent no Midwife knows how by the Touch to diſtinguiſh ſuch a Poſiture of the Womb and Infant from other untoward ones.* Theſe Women, who thus bring neceſſary Aſſiſtance to ſuch a one in Labour, are likewiſe unfit for this Work, as not being able to tell either the Woman or her Friends the Danger of this Situation, and conſequently

quently neither the Woman nor her Friends can have time enough to deliberate how to take care ſeaſonably to expedite the Mother and Infant from ſuch mortal Danger.

3dly, *Midwives not knowing ſuch Situation of the Womb and Infant, nor dreading its mortal Danger, deceive themſelves, as well as the Woman in Labour, and her Friends, and the reſt of the By-Standers:* For, when they are asked, If the Infant be well turned? or lie with the Crown of his Head upon the Orifice of the Womb? They ſay, Yes, he thruſts the Crown of his Head forward, he is well turned; and here acquieſing, they ſecurely expect a quick Delivery: whereas they ought to fear, that, if an experienced *Maſter* in the *Art of Midwifery* be not ſpeedily ſent for, the Woman might for certain die undelivered.

4thly, This Poſiture, therefore, which we now treat of, is not dangerous in reſpect only of the Ignorance of Midwives, but is in itſelf ſurrounded with ſo many Perils and Diſadvantages, that the moſt skilful and moſt dexterous *Maſter* in this *Art* is obliged to deem it very dangerous; and confeſs, that if it be not impoſſible, yet that it is at leaſt extremely difficult for him, in ſuch a Situation of the Womb and Infant, to preſerve the Mother from Danger of Death: And that I may demonſtrate that what I ſay, is founded on Truth and Experience, I ſhall now (and

I think it neceſſary ſo to do) as clearly as may be, treat of this ſame Situation and its Conſequences, that all who are skilled in the *Art* may be fully convinced thereof.

The Caſe in queſtion then is this: An Infant lying reſupine, or on his Back, in a Womb fallen ſo low in a propendulous *Abdomen* (or which on the forepart is prominent downwards) ſo that the Poſiture of the Womb and *Vagina* ſeem to make a broken Curve or Rectangle.

I ſuppoſe the Infant in ſuch a Womb to lie reſupine with his Head to the Orifice of the Womb, ſo that it cannot be otherwiſe but it muſt firſt ſtrike upon the Orifice of the Womb, and be preſſed above againſt the Curvature or Bending of the *Vertebræ* of the Loins, and the *Os Sacrum* or *Coccygis*; which for the moſt part ſhoots out in a Point, as is well known to all Anatomiſts, and therefore they may eaſily underſtand what I here preſuppoſe.

From this true Suppoſition, there unavoidably follows another, to wit, that the pointed part of the Womb, with the Infant's Head incloſed, muſt neceſſarily lie upon the *Oſſa Pubis* of the Woman: whence it muſt follow, firſt, that the Waters cannot eaſily dilate the Mouth of the Womb; and beſides, if they could a little open and dilate the Womb, this could not be done but under the Head of the Infant in the Cavity of the *Pelvis*,

Pelvis, and conſequently the Waters cannot be but of an oblong and tenuous Form or Figure, and oftentimes are broken before the Midwife can obſerve it, or elſe they are already broken before her coming to the Woman, becauſe ſuch a Perſon has not her true Pains, and the Midwife who is called ſeldom thruſts up her Hand ſo high, as to be able to perceive the Encreaſe of the Waters; for it is impoſſible ſhe ſhould reach them with her Fingers only, unleſs they deſcend or fall down like an Inteſtine, or Gut.

And when the Waters, or rather Membranes, are broken, and the Waters flow out, they call them fugitive or flying Waters, without rightly conceiving the true Cauſe of this their Defluxion, yet they know by Experience, that theſe Waters for the moſt part foretell *a difficult Birth*: For theſe Waters are formed oblong and ſlender in all bad and untoward Poſitures or Situations of the Womb and *Fœtus*, whoſe Head does not directly lie over the Orifice of the Womb; and this happens more or leſs, as the Head of the Infant more or leſs ſtops or ſhuts up the Mouth of the Womb. But becauſe the Conſequences of theſe ſame Waters are not always equally pernicious, hence it is they hope for the *Beſt*, whereas it ought rather to be a ſeaſonable *Memento* and Admonition to them to fear the *Worſt*.

From what has been hitherto ſaid, every one that is skilled in the *Art*, may gather, firſt, That in this Poſiture or Situation of the Womb and Infant the Pains can be but little urged or provoked, in order to dilate the Mouth of the Womb by the Head of the Child, becauſe it lies againſt the *Os Sacrum*; beſides, if the Head of the *Fœtus* could ſomewhat dilate the Oriſice of the Womb, in ſuch caſe the hinder part of the Head of the *Fœtus* would only deſcend a very little into the *Pelvis*; and if it ſhould ſo happen that the hinder part of the Head of the *Fœtus* could by little and little deſcend more and more into the Cavity of the *Pelvis*, even then the Head could not fall down farther, unleſs to the *Oſſa Pubis*, whereon indeed the Infant might be held by the Neck; for farther than that, it cannot eaſily deſcend.

The *Fœtus* being then reſupine, or upon his Back, with the Crown of his Head lying upon the Curvature or Bending of the *Os Sacrum*, the Neck leaning upon the *Os Pubis*, the hinder part of the Head fallen down upon, or into the *Pelvis*, with his Face reclined upwards; the Midwife touches the hinder part of the Head of the Infant, and imagines ſhe plainly feels his Crown, and ſays, the *Fœtus* comes on duly, and as it rightly ought; that the Birth is natural, the Child well turned, and provided there were due

Pains,

Pains, all things would go well : but ſhe ſays, that the Pains are too feeble, promote nothing, and adviſes the Woman ſtrenuouſly to urge and provoke them. But all theſe Efforts prove in vain ; for the ſtrongeſt Spaſms or Diſtenſions can by no means expreſs or throw out an Infant in ſuch a Situation, which being thus fixed, is every where incommoded and appreſſed by the Bones of the *Pelvis*.

In this Poſiture or Situation, there is yet another vaſt Diſadvantage of which the Midwives complain, being however very ignorant why it is ſo. And this Inconveniency obtains chiefly in Women of a more advanced Age, who never before have been in Labour : which Inconveniency conſiſts in this, That there is no Aperture, nor can be, tho' the Woman be a great many days in labour ; for the Head of the Infant remaining thus compreſſed, does not urge, nay indeed never can urge or move the *Pudenda*, becauſe it cannot deſcend, either by Aſſiſtance of Hand or Pains ; wherefore no Medicines inciting Pains or Spaſms can avail any thing in this Caſe, but rather are extremely hurtful and injurious : and nothing is hence to be expected, but the certain Death of the Mother and *Fœtus*, eſpecially tho' there has preceded an entire Defluxion of the Waters, and the *Fœtus* remains compreſſed in a dry Womb ; but to

ſave

ſave the Mother, while ſhe has yet Strength, let not the *Fœtus* be treated as if dead, and the Mother may be delivered. And to do this, is required a Maſter moſt excellently dextrous in this *Art*; for this is not only a moſt difficult Task, but what is almoſt impoſſible to be effected: I ſay *almoſt* impoſſible, not abſolutely ſo, unleſs it be ſuch as are not very skilful and experienced.

If any one ſhould deſire to know what a Midwife muſt do to draw forth ſuch a *Fœtus*? I anſwer, That in the above-mentioned Situation and Danger, an Inverſion of the *Fœtus* muſt by no means be thought on, either by drawing it out by the Feet, for then the Head cannot be retroduced; for which Reaſon the Head, which at firſt came down into the *Pelvis*, is to be drawn forth: but this cannot be done but with much difficulty; for beſides that, in Women of a more advanced Age at their firſt Travail, there is no Aperture, and this ought to be firſt made, for the Head remains ſo fixed and appreſſed, and the Situation of the Body that is to follow it ſo perverſe, that it is entirely impoſſible to draw forth the Head either with the Hands, or any Inſtrument whatſoever, unleſs firſt having opened the Skull, the Brains taken out, and even then it has its Difficulties.

Some, perhaps, may ask, Whether the Infant, in ſuch a caſe, might not be drawn forth

forth by the *Tire Tête* (as it is commonly called) an Inſtrument invented by Monſieur *MAURICEAU*, without firſt taking out the Brains? I anſwer, that altho' I made this Inſtrument according to that Gentleman's Directions, and have kept it by me for many Years, yet I never made any uſe of it; becauſe I know, by Experience, that the Head, in ſuch Poſiture or Situation, cannot be drawn forth, unleſs the Brains be firſt taken out: for I have ſufficiently tried ſo to do, by Inſtruments that were very fit and proper for ſuch an Operation.

The Reaſon is, becauſe the Infant being fixed by the Neck, is appreſſed by the *Oſſa Pubis*, and becauſe its Back and Shoulders are too much every where appreſſed by the *Oſſa Pelvis*, to be drawn thence by the greateſt Violence. Nor would it ſuffice, in this Poſiture or Situation, to draw the Head to one by any Inſtrument which had taken hold of it, for ſo ſhould we, by means of ſuch an Inſtrument, with an incredible Violence, appreſs the *Oſſa Pubis*; and that the Head may follow, the Fraction, or Drawing, ought to be directed more towards the Parts poſteriour than the anteriour, for otherwiſe there would be no Paſſage; and unleſs the Brains be taken out of the Head, the Space is too narrow to draw it towards the poſteriour or back Parts: and therefore I prefer to this Inſtrument (the *Tire Têtc*)

a Hook or ſtrong Forceps, for theſe may be better directed, and introduced with leſs Inconveniency.

Not to multiply Chapters, and yet that we may inſtruct the *Tyrones*, or Students, of this Art, with proper Obſervations in ſuch *difficult Births*, we ſhall make mention of another perverſe Situation of the Womb and Infant; namely, as it ſometimes happens, when the Womb is fallen down into a ſomewhat prominent *Abdomen*, not directly ſtraitforward, but more inclined either to the right Side or left; and when in ſuch an obliquated Womb the Infant lies reſupine, and ſo falls down with the hinder Part of its Head into the *Pelvis*: this Poſiture or Situation is not to be eſteemed much more advantageous than the former, in which the Womb falls down directly ſtraitforward into the *Abdomen*, and the Difficulty of delivering the Woman, as alſo the Danger of her Death, without firſt bringing forth the *Fœtus*, is almoſt the ſame, nay very often greater, for the Reaſons mentioned in the foregoing Caſe.

Midwives know not how to find out this Situation by the Touch, and diſtinguiſh it from that which is a natural one; and tho' the Head of the Infant be thus obliquely fallen into the *Pelvis*, yet, ſay they, it is well turned; according to their Judgment, there are only wanting ſo urgent and provoking Pains,

Pains, Medicines muſt be had to incite them, which the Phyſician preſcribes, relying on the Judgment and Deſires of the Midwife, but with great Injury and Prejudice to the Woman in Travail; for even the ſharpeſt Pains, in this Caſe, are to no purpoſe, for they cannot force the Head of the Infant as it ought to be, becauſe the *Fœtus* ſticks very cloſe, being ſtrongly appreſſed in his Head, Neck, and Shoulders, between and againſt the *Oſſa Pelvis*; and this Situation is equally dangerous and mortal as the preceding, unleſs *Art* come timely to the Aſſiſtance of *Nature*; if not, the *Fœtus* muſt be treated as above.

Infants who, in this Situation of the Womb, lie prone upon their Belly, are more eaſily brought away; yet Experience has taught me, that ſuch Situation of a prone Infant is oftentimes attended with equal Inconveniences as if it lay on its Back; and this happens when the *Fœtus* lies on its Belly in ſuch a place, where it may ſtretch out the Forepart of his Crown, and hold the hinder Part of his Head ſomewhat reclined Sideways, and where he may have his Chin preſt to his Breaſt, and his Face looking upward. Now the Face, reclined Sideways, may for the moſt Part look upwards; in which Caſe even the moſt skilful Maſter in the *Art* may err, for judging of the Poſiture of the Head, he will moſt certainly conclude,

clude the *Fœtus* to be lying on its Back; but when the Head ſhall be drawn out, he will ſee the Infant follow with the Breaſt and *Abdomen* turned upward: whence it neceſſarily follows, that the Head and Neck of the Infant were writhed or intorted, and ſo to have deſcended into the *Pelvis*. So that the Midwife, in ſuch a Poſiture, ſtands in need of as much Labour to draw forth ſuch a *Fœtus*, as if it had lain on its Back; the ſame Means therefore in both ought to be made uſe of.

The Reaſon why Infants are drawn forth from Wombs reclined on either Side, with the ſame Difficulty as from thoſe which have fallen direct forward into the *Abdomen*, is, becauſe the Shoulders of the Infant do then, for the moſt part, lie as it were diametrically tranſverſe or athwart the *Pelvis*: for which reaſon, being preſſed to, every where by the *Oſſa Pubis*, they remain immoveable, and cannot be drawn forth without extreme Violence: And unleſs the Shoulders fall down into the *Pelvis*, the Head of the Infant cannot be drawn out; and it will be very difficult to find any one that has ſuch tender Hands and Arms, as that he might immit them all along from the Head to the Shoulders, and ſo direct them as they may deſcend into the *Pelvis*, or make them lie directly over the *Pelvis*: ſo that when the Head of the Infant is drawn forward, they may

may fall into it, and unleſs the Shoulders follow, as has been ſaid, the Woman cannot be delivered.

But perhaps ſome might ask, Whether in ſuch a Poſiture of the Womb and Infant, the Woman cannot or ought not to be delivered after another manner? I anſwer, If the hinder Part of the Head is already fallen into the *Pelvis*, it can be done no other way, as I know of; but if ſuch Situation be timely known, then a far different Method muſt be made uſe of, *viz.* we ought not to ſuffer the hinder Part of the Head to fall into the *Pelvis*, but we ought immediately to break the Membranes, if they are not ſo already; and then having with the Hand immediately removed his Head to the Side, we muſt feel after the Infant's Feet, which, when having found, gently to draw them to us, and after this manner draw out the inverted Infant by his Feet; and in ſo doing there remains yet hopes of ſaving the Mother and the Infant, which hopes entirely vaniſh as ſoon as the Waters have made their Defluxion, and the hinder Part of the Head is fallen into the *Pelvis*.

But, as we have before obſerved, this Poſiture or Situation, is entirely unknown to Midwives, and can by no means be diſtinguiſhed by them; for which Reaſon very rarely they ſend for a Maſter in the Art, but when the time is elapſed wherein the Infant

Infant might be ſaved, nay very often too late for the Mother to eſcape Death; for, in this Caſe, tho' the *Fœtus* be thus brought forth, being too much weakened and debilitated, ſhe dies: for which Reaſon, not without Cauſe, we laid it down as a certain Truth, that theſe Poſitures or Situations are for the moſt part deſtructive and mortal both to Mother and Infant.

I beſeech God, that at length he would vouchſafe to open the Eyes of the moſt High and Mighty Lords of our Republick *, that they might conſider of ſuch efficacious Ways and Means, to prevent that negligent Ruin, Perdition, and Deſtruction of ſo many Women and their Infants, occaſioned by the dull and groſs Ignorance of Midwives, and at the ſame time to prohibit the Abuſe of unſeaſonable taking of ſuch Medicaments inciting Pains, according to the Caprice and Fancy of ſuch ſtupid Midwives.

I doubt not but every one, who is deſirous of Improvement, may be glad to know by what Ways and Methods, in the beginning, Infants thus untowardly poſited, and perverſely iſſuing, may be drawn out by the Hands, with hopes of ſaving both Mother and Child?

That we may give a candid Anſwer to this Queſtion, I muſt ſay, that in order to aſſiſt ſagely and religiouſly a Woman in la-

* *The* States *of* Holland.

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bour, under ſuch unhappy Circumſtances, it muſt firſt of all plainly appear to us how the Womb and Infant are poſited, either Sideways, or in the forward Part of the *Abdomen.*

If the Womb and Infant are poſited on either Side, the beſt way of all is, that the Mother ſhould lie down in the Bed upon that Side in which the Womb and Infant are ſituated, with her Knees lifted up towards the *Abdomen,* and the upper Part of the Body poſited in a more declining Situation than the lower, that the whole weight of the Womb and Infant may fall backwards towards the *Diaphragma.*

If the Infant and Womb are placed in the *Abdomen,* the Woman ought to be kneeling on the Bed, with the upper Part of the Body very much declined; ſo that the *Abdomen* being at liberty, the Womb and Infant may, by its own weight, deſcend into the Forepart of the *Abdomen.*

The Woman being ſo placed, the Doctor ought to introduce his Hand, and gently bring it down from the Head to the Shoulders of the Infant, and then he muſt retropreſs the Infant to make room; after which the Head ought to recline a little towards one Side, the Chin appreſs the Breaſt, and then moving his Hand along the Head, and thence upon the Breaſt of the Infant, he muſt proceed to the Feet; of which, having

found one, he must hold it in a Noose, that it be not pulled back again; then let him endeavour to get the other, and gently draw both thro' the Mouth of the Womb; whitherto having brought them, he must hold them close together with one Hand, and with the other retropress the upper Part of the Body, and so by degrees draw forth the Infant by his Feet.

But Three things are here to be observed: (1.) That before the Infant is farther protracted, the Woman must be placed in a different manner; that is, she must be laid on her Back, with the upper Part of her Body somewhat elevated, which is the Situation of a Woman in a natural Labour. (2.) Before the *Fœtus* is farther protracted, the *Abdomen* of the Woman ought by a skilfull Hand to be put up, rightly and firmly placed; which then very easily may be done, and proves a very great Conveniency and Advantage. (3.) While we draw down the Feet, the Infant is to be inverted by little and little, so that the *Belly*, *Thorax*, and *Face* may be turned downwards, lest the Chin strike upon, and be appressed by the *Ossa Pubis*.

While we are employed in gently drawing forth the Infant, let the Woman in Labour likewise do her Office, that is, she must strive, as much as in her lies, whether the Pains provoke or not, to express the Infant, for this

this is of very great Help and Advantage, and especially if the Infant is still alive; for these Endeavours of the Mother hurt her much less than the Doctor's Touches. When the Infant is thus brought into the World, the Secundines, or After-Birth, are to be taken out, and the Womb purged or cleansed, as we have declared in our former Part, which would be useless here to repeat.

CHAP. II.

Of a Difficult Birth, occasioned by the Infant's lying transverse, or athwart the Pelvis.

AMONGST all the perverse Positures or Situations of Infants, none is worse than this; that is, when the Infant lies transverse or athwart the *Pelvis*, and especially when the Infant, thus posited, lies resupine, or on his Back.

This Posture always causes a difficult Birth, whether the Womb be directly or obliquely posited; and if such a Posture causes a difficult Birth, when the Womb is directly posited, much more will it do so when the Womb has an oblique Situation; and

moſt difficult of all in a Woman, whoſe *Pelvis* is but ſmall and plain, and when the Bottom of her Womb falls down low in the *Abdomen*.

Now two ways eſpecially may an Infant lie tranſverſe or athwart the *Pelvis*; the firſt is, when the Head and upper Part of the Body lie on one Side of the *Abdomen*, and the Feet, Legs, and Buttocks on the other: and this Poſiture or Situation is yet much better than the next, which I am going to inſtance, and for the Cauſes I ſhall preſently mention.

That, which is yet much worſe, is when the Legs and the lower Part of the Infant lie in the *Abdomen*, but the Head and upper Part of the Body lie upon the Woman's Loins.

There is no manner of Doubt to be made, but that an Infant, having either of theſe two Poſitures or Situations, cannot be brought into the World after ſuch a manner, but that the Mother, together with the Infant thus retained, muſt die, unleſs ſhe be delivered by an artful Hand; which, immediately after the breaking of the Membranes, may be effected eaſier, ſooner, and with leſs Anguiſh than before, and very often, by ſpinning out the time, may be intirely impoſſible.

When the Infant lies, after the firſt manner, tranſverſe or athwart the *Pelvis*, with the

the upper Part of the Body on one Side, and the lower Part on the other, and the Belly lying loweſt, whether the Navel-String hang out or not, there is not ſo much Danger as when the Infant lies on his Back; becauſe the ſoft and tender *Abdomen*, or Belly of the Infant, cannot much reſiſt the Hand when it is put in, in order to come at the Feet; for an Infant thus poſited muſt neceſſarily be inverted and drawn out by the Feet, as I have taught and demonſtrated in my firſt Part *.

But if the Infant lie reſupine, that is, his Back lying loweſt, then it will be very difficult to invert an Infant in ſuch a Poſiture, and draw it forth by the Feet; nay, it will be much more difficult and laborious, becauſe the Back is broad and hard, and does not eaſily give way to the Doctor's Hand, when introduced, or permit itſelf to be thruſt upward; beſides, in this Caſe, he will be hindered from coming at the Feet, which will be difficult enough for him to do, eſpecially if there has been already a Defluxion of the Waters: but yet there is no nearer way, no better Method of inverting the Infant, and drawing him forth by the Feet, than that which I have taught alſo and demonſtrated in my firſt Part †.

* Chap. 42. Fig. 28.
† Chap. 43. Fig. 29.

If it be very difficult to invert an Infant that lies tranſverſe or athwart the *Pelvis* after the firſt manner, it will prove twice or thrice the Difficulty if he lies tranſverſe or athwart the *Pelvis* after the ſecond manner; that is, when the lower Part of the Body lies in the prominent Part of the *Abdomen*, and the upper Part and Head upon the *Vertebræ* of the Loins, eſpecially if the Woman's Loins are very hollow, and ſhe carry her Womb very low in the *Abdomen*. If the Infant, thus poſited, lie prone on his Belly, the Inverſion will be much more eaſily made, or rather with leſs Pain and Anguiſh, neither is there ſo much Danger of Death, tho' the Infant be not brought forth, as if it lay reſupine or on its Back; and in the beginning immediately after the Defluxion of the Waters, or when they are actually flowing, it is no ways ſo difficult to be brought about, as when the Waters have had their entire Defluxion, for the longer we delay, it will with more Difficulty be effected, and at laſt perhaps not at all, neither by the Hand, or indeed by any Inſtrument whatſoever.

Some one, perhaps, will imagine I have repreſented this Poſiture or Situation in too difficult a manner, not reflecting that this ſame Poſiture or Situation is of all the moſt difficult; but let him but once conſider the true Reaſon of the difficult Inverſion of ſuch

ſuch an Infant, and he will be obliged to acknowledge with me, that what I have aſſerted is entirely true; And that this may be well underſtood, firſt of all it is requiſite to have a juſt Idea of the *Pelvis*, the Bones of which are ſo connected, placed, and deſigned, that the Hand and Arm, when thruſt up thro' its Mouth, or *Hiatus*, proceed in a right Line towards the Navel, a right-placed Womb has much the ſame Situation; and therefore it is, we may move our Hand and Arm, and work in it very eaſily, and the Arm is never ſtrongly appreſſed by the Bones.

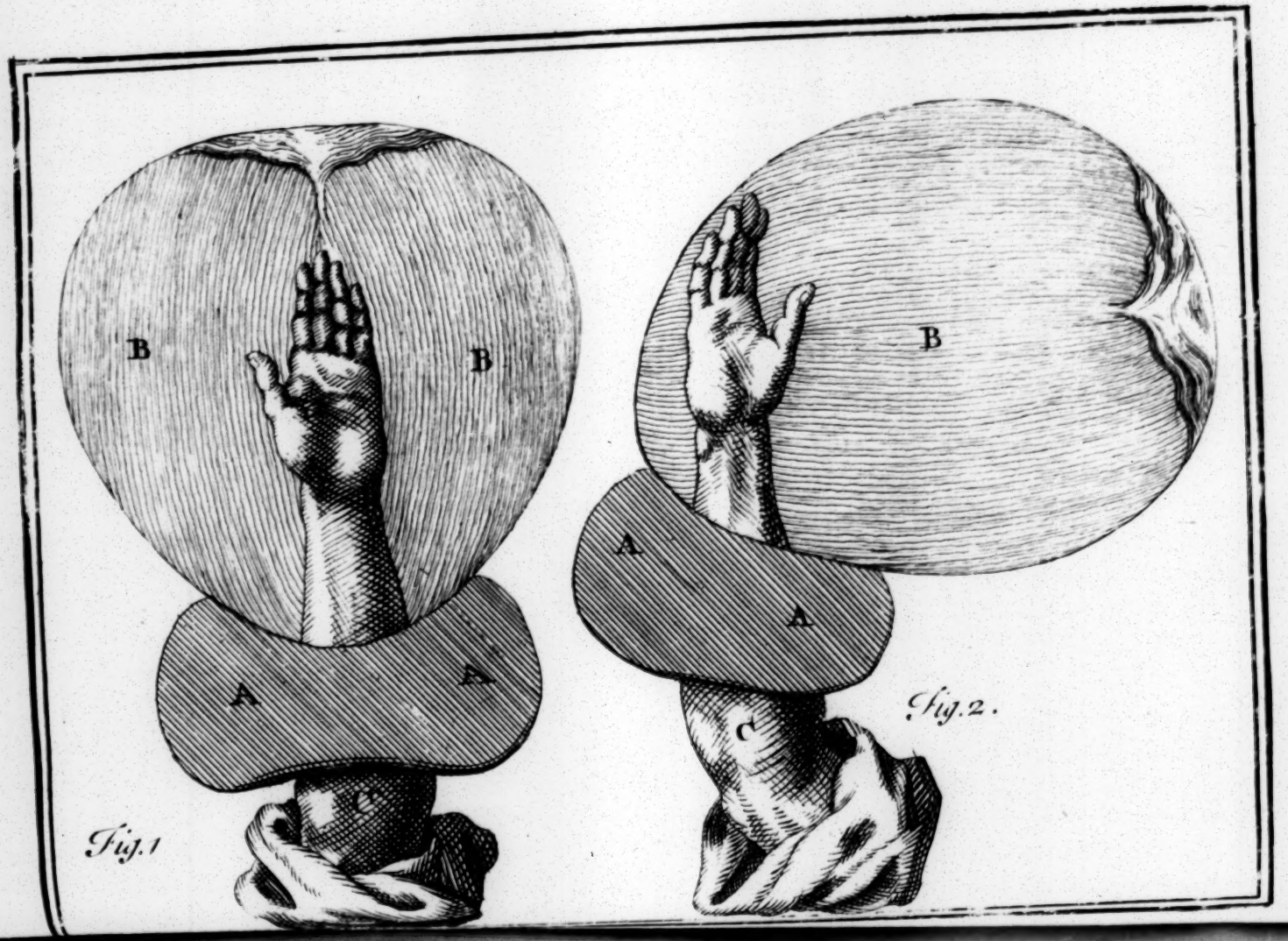
But if the Bottom of the Womb deſcends hence, or is preſſed down into a propendulous, or a forward-hanging *Abdomen*, then the Hand can never arrive at the Bottom of the Womb, becauſe the Hand is then too ſhort ſo to do, and the Arm too rigid, becauſe there is no middle Joint between the Hand, and the Flexure of the Cubit or Elbow; and as much as I have earneſtly endeavoured to exhibit to your View ſuch a Poſiture, or Situation, yet hitherto I have not been able to give myſelf that Satisfaction.

But, however, that I may give the Reader at leaſt ſome ſort of an Idea of this matter, you may caſt your Eyes on both theſe Figures; one of which repreſents a Womb rightly poſited, and the other obliquely.

The first Figure shews you the Womb, with its Point, or *Apex*, lying directly on the *Pelvis*; A A designs or marks out the *Pelvis*, B B the Womb, C the Hand and Arm stretched out in a right Line towards the Bottom of the Womb. Every one will easily perceive, that the Hand and Arm, thus thrust up into the Womb, have room enough, that they may turn and roll round every way towards any part of the Womb, to invert the Infant, tho' lying resupine on his Back. It is true indeed, that this Posiſure or Situation extremely hinders the way, and makes it, in the utmost manner, difficult to come at the Feet; however, this may be done, tho' not without great Trouble to the Person who performs the Duty of a Midwife, and great Anguish to the Patient.

But the thing is far otherwise in the *second Figure*, which represents to us a far different Posiſure of the Womb, to wit, the Womb directly below in the forepart of a Propendulous, or forward-hanging *Abdomen*; A A denotes the *Pelvis*, B B the Womb, and C the Arm.

Let the Reader observe, that on the very first looking upon this Figure, he will immediately think, that the Bottom of the Womb is placed on the right Side of the *Abdomen*: I could not represent to the Eye this Situation in any better manner, and therefore he ought to conceive in his Mind the


B
B
A
A
C
Fig. 1
B
A
A
C
Fig. 2.

the Bottom of the Womb to be ſituated in a propendulous *Abdomen*, otherwiſe he will not be able to perceive well the Danger of this Poſiture. For when the Womb is placed only on one ſide, tho' as obliquely as here repreſented, yet the Danger is twice leſs than if it were ſituated in the forepart of a propendulous *Abdomen*: becauſe the *Pelvis* is conſiderably ſpacious at the ſides, ſo that the Arm may be moved towards both ſides at the greateſt diſtance. But directly on the forepart, between the Eminence of the *Os Sacrum* and the *Oſſa Pubis*, there is no ways ſuch a Space; nay, very often the way is ſo narrow, that the Arm ſtops ſhort, being compreſſed on every ſide; nor can it remain long, without much Grief and Aſtoniſhment. Nay, I my ſelf happened once to meet with ſo ſmall a Diſtance between the Eminence of the *Os Sacrum* and *Oſſa Pubis* in one Woman, that my Hand could not paſs through, much leſs the Head of the Infant; ſo that the Hand and Arm could not be introduced, unleſs at the ſides of the eminent Curvature of the utmoſt *Vertebræ* of the *Os Sacrum*.

But if through a more happy Fortune the *Pelvis* be large enough, ſo that the Hand and Arm may eaſily paſs through it, as in the *ſecond Figure*, the queſtion then is, by what Ways or Method the Hand may reach to or attain the Bottom of the Womb? For there

there lie the Infant's Feet, and till they are taken hold of, it is entirely impoſſible, to invert and draw forth the Infant.

We ſuppoſed, the Infant to lie on his Back, and conſequently his Feet are ſtretched directly upwards, or elſe being bent backward, lie upon the Buttocks of the Infant: If they are ſtretched out directly upwards, they then lie contiguous to the Bottom of the Womb, and there they muſt be ſought for. I repeat it therefore again: How can the Hand and Arm reach hither? It is impoſſible, for the Arm has no Joint in the Middle, and conſequently cannot bend; indeed it may move and roll about a little, but by no means can it reach to or attain the Bottom of the Womb, that it may there take hold of the Feet; for the Arm remains compreſſed on every ſide, nay it can ſcarce reach half way.

Perhaps you will ſay, the Arm need not be thruſt up ſo high, but that the Hand ſliding down along the length of the Back, muſt ſearch for the Feet, which perhaps will lie upon the Buttocks. Granting the Feet to be ſo placed, I ask again, how can we come hither? This is as impoſſible as in the preceding manner; for if with your Hand thruſt in below, you endeavour along the Back of the Infant to come at his Buttocks or Feet, there are ſtill greater Obſtacles to ſurmount: for we cannot proceed farther than the length of the Hand will permit, which tho' it were twice more than it is,

would

would not be ſufficient to reach the Buttocks and Feet, and the Arm cannot follow the Hand when put in; for it cannot bend in that place, nor is there room that it may follow the Hand to aſſiſt ſuch an oblique Situation.

Beſides, there remains yet another Difficulty, which one does not preſently reflect on, *viz.* That when we endeavour to put in our Hand along the Infant's Back, it muſt be inflected towards our Body; to wit, between the *Oſſa Pubis*, and the Back of the Infant: And as we do this, the Hand ſlides overthwartly on, that is, the Joints or Knuckles of the Fingers move along the Back, and conſequently neither Fingers nor Thumb can take hold of, much leſs firmly retain any part of the Infant; but if you put in the Palm of the Hand along the length of the Back, immediately the Hand being preſſed, remains unactive: for then it ſhould be bent backward, and ſo cannot perform the third or fourth part of the length as is requiſite to come at the Feet; nay, in a word, the thing is impoſſible, and the Woman can by no means be delivered.

Some, perhaps, may ask, Whether a Woman in this deſperate Condition is to be abandoned and given up to certain Death? or whether any thing elſe is to be attempted in order to ſave her? I anſwer, If the Woman has been in Labour ſome Days, if her Waters have had their entire Defluxion, and ſhe be in a high Fever, and her Strength fail her;

in

in ſuch a Caſe I ſhould adviſe to let her die quietly: but if ſhe has any manner of Strength yet remaining, then would I adviſe this Method to be made uſe of; *viz.* Having asked and deſired Leave to treat the Infant as dead, with hopes of ſaving the Mother, this is the neareſt and only way ſo to do, as much as I have hitherto obſerved; to wit, having put in the Hand below, as far as may be, as is repreſented in the *ſecond Figure*, the Head of the Infant muſt be ſought for, the Thumb and Fingers muſt be put into the Mouth, and ſo to be taken hold of by the Chin, and thus the Head muſt be drawn out downwards, as much as can be; this done, a ſtrong Hook may be fixed into the Head, and the Head by this means be retained: The Head, thus with the Hook fixed into it, muſt be held by one Hand, and gently drawn downward; we muſt, with the other Hand preſſed againſt the Back of the Infant, thruſt it up towards the oppoſite ſide, that there may be room for the Head to be drawn down, inverting at the ſame time by little and little the upper part of the Infant's Body, 'till the Head be turned downwards, and ſo be laid upon the Orifice of the Womb. This done, we may place the upper part of the Woman's Body in a very declining Poſition, and procure two ſtrong Men to draw up the *Abdomen* of the Woman with a Napkin or Towel, and then we may try to draw out the Infant; and there is great hopes by this

means

means both of delivering and ſaving the Woman.

In all other Caſes of a Womb obliquely poſited, I have adviſed, and it is my preſent Advice to ſeek for the Feet of the Infant; and that the Infant thus held by the Feet, ſhould be inverted and drawn forth: But becauſe in this oblique Poſiture of the Womb, it is impoſſible to attain or come at the Feet, there remains nothing elſe to be done, but to draw down the Head after the manner juſt now mentioned, and to let it be then drawn forth as commodiouſly as poſſible; which Operation indeed is very difficult and troubleſome, nor can it be performed but by a Hand of the utmoſt dexterity: but yet that the Woman may be ſaved, all Extremities muſt be tried, and in this Operation the skilful Artiſt muſt take all the Care imaginable not to hurt the Woman, or do her any Damage.

Such an extraordinary Obliquity of the Womb, and Infant's Poſiture, was not altogether known to me, when I put out the firſt Part of this Work; and therefore I could not with ſufficient Certainty diſcourſe hereupon. But being afterwards, in the Month of *December*, in the Year 1700, ſent for to a Woman in Labour at the *Hague*, in the *Het Speuy*, a Street ſo called; I put in my Hand, and found the Infant lying tranſverſly, or athwart, the *Pelvis*, on his Back, with his right Hand hanging out of the Orifice of the Womb, and all the lower part of the

Body

Body in the Bottom of the Womb, which lay in the forepart of a propendulous or forward-hanging *Abdomen.* The Head of the Infant lay againſt the *Vertebræ* of the Loins of the Woman, with the Chin very much appreſſed to the Breaſt; the left Hand lay upon the Head, ſo that there was no way of coming at it.

I endeavoured to make as much room as was requiſite to get at the Feet; but this I found was impoſſible, for the aforeſaid Cauſes: With a great deal of Pains I came at laſt ſo far, that I could touch the Head. I put my Thumb into the Mouth, and I felt the Infant bite it, and conſequently it was yet alive; for which reaſon I looked upon it to be impious to expoſe to wilful Death an Infant that was alive, becauſe the Woman had yet Strength enough remaining; and having found ſome little Space, I was in hopes one way or other of ſaving the Child.

But the Woman regarding herſelf and Infant with a leſs Religious Mind than I did, ſaid in plain Terms that ſhe would ſuffer nothing more, in order to be delivered, having for five Years then laſt paſt wiſhed to die.

This terrified me, and all the Women preſent, who endeavoured to make her deſiſt from this Reſolution, but in vain: The Women, being enraged at ſuch a deſperate Temper, went all away, leaving me alone with her;

her: She got up, and taking a Chair sat down to the Fire which I myself made, being desirous of hearing the Reason of such a desperate Intention. She told me, she had a Husband, who had involved her in a great deal of Sorrow, and that she often wished for Death, that she might be delivered from so great an Evil; and now, since this way to death offered itself, she had rather die with her Child, than endure any thing whereby she might be delivered: And tho' I endeavoured by all manner of Dissuasion to divert this Resolution, yet she continued unmoved, and a few days after died, with the *Fœtus* remaining within her.

CHAP. III.

An Example of an Infant lying after another manner transversly on the Pelvis, *in a Womb obliquely posited.*

ON the twentieth Day of *October* 1713, I was sent for to a Woman at *Rotterdam*, who had lain five Days in Labour, was very much weakened with a high Fever, and delirious; where I also found the like oblique Positure of a resupine Infant,

fant, and the Bottom of the Womb placed in a propendulous *Abdomen*, but more leaning to the right ſide; the Infant lay indeed on his Back, but a little inverted, ſo that the left Shoulder lay next the Orifice of the Womb.

Before I ſearched this Woman with my Hand, I asked the Midwife, who had been ſome Days with her, how the Infant was poſited, and what Parts came forward? She anſwered, the Child came forward with his Buttocks, and always remained unmoved in that Poſition. When I heard this, I preſently declared I had good hopes of a ſpeedy Delivery; ſaying, If the Infant comes on with his Buttocks, there will be no difficulty of delivering the Woman: but going to work, I was inſtantly ſurprized, perceiving that the left Shoulder came forward, and that I could preſently after come at the Back, and even the right Shoulder; ſo that the Infant lay reſupine with his left Shoulder more declining, and his right Shoulder more elevated, when ſliding in my right Hand along the Back directly upwards, I came to the Neck. I put my Hand yet ſtill higher, 'till I came to the Head, which being a little inverted lay with the Face towards the right ſide, and the Chin very much preſſed upon the Heart.

I tried farther, whether in the left part of the Womb, that is, whether in the Womb to-

wards the left ſide of the *Abdomen*, there remained any Space, but I found that I could not, without a great deal of pains, put my Hand in between the Shoulder, Neck and Head of the Infant, and the Womb, which was very muchappreſſed by theſe parts of the Infant: ſo that on this ſide there remained no greater Space, and I could attempt nothing to change the perverſe Situation of the Infant.

Wherefore, leaving this place, I thought it neceſſary accurately to examine into the perverſe Situation of the Womb; and to that end I put in my left Hand, which I thruſt tranſverſly beneath the Back of the Infant, and after that upwards, where bending towards me my Hand and Fingers, I could ſufficiently feel the Head and Breaſt; but I could effect nothing to the purpoſe, becauſe I could not find there any the leaſt Space: for the Head with the Chin was firmly preſt down to the Heart, and the Womb with both theſe was on every ſide ſtraitned with ſo ſtrict a Compreſſion, that I could not but with the greateſt ſtraining, and that too not without pain, lift up one Finger; or when erected, contract or bend it back again.

However,I made uſe of all my Strength to go higher with my Hand, but in vain, becauſe my Hand ſtruck againſt the ſide part of the Womb: I ſay, I touched the ſide part of the Womb; which, inſtead of lying in the

the left ſide of the *Abdomen*, looked directly upward; for which Reaſon I firmly concluded, that the Bottom of the Womb muſt neceſſarily be poſited on the right ſide of the *Abdomen*.

That I might be ſatisfied herein, I ran my left Hand over the *Abdomen* on the outſide, and at the ſame time with my right Hand in the Womb, I reached as far as I could towards the right ſide of the *Abdomen*, and by this means I was thoroughly aſcertained of this rare and very oblique Poſiture of the Womb, the Bottom of which entirely fell down into a prominent *Abdomen*; to wit, into the left ſide of the *Abdomen*, in which left ſide of the ſaid prominent *Abdomen*, the Infant, with all the lower parts of his Body, that is, with his Legs and Buttocks, had fallen down and remained compreſſed; whence enſued two of the greateſt Impoſſibilities in the World.

The firſt Impoſſibility was, that in this rare and perverſe Poſiture of the Womb and Infant, no Pains, how ſtrong ſoever they might be, or had already been, could avail any thing, to expreſs the Infant through the Orifice of the Womb, becauſe they would only more powerfully depreſs the Infant into the propendulous *Abdomen*; expreſſing nothing but the Humours, which neceſſarily ſhould here remain, and ſo would do much more hurt than good.

The other Impoſſibility, which neceſſarily followed from thence, was, that, by long continued Pains, and the ſtrong Depreſſion of the Bottom of the Womb, and the Defluxion of every requiſite Humour, it would be abſolutely impoſſible, to put the Hand or Arm ſo deep into the Bottom of the Womb, that the lower parts of the Infant, that is, the Buttocks, Legs or Feet, may be come at; which unleſs this be done, in ſuch a Caſe the Infant cannot be inverted, and conſequently cannot either come forward, or be drawn out: which in the beginning of the Pains might yet have been done, as long as the Waters kept the Womb dilated and expanded, and while the Bottom of the Womb, together with the lower parts of the Infant, were not fallen ſo low into the ſide part of the *Abdomen*, nor were ſo much compreſſed, and conſequently, when there was a greater ſpace, that you might come thereto, and apply the neceſſary Succours of the Hand.

How much did I heartily deſire to ſave this unhappy Woman! And becauſe the Infant was not only dead, but very much corrupted, of whom I was obliged to take no manner of Care, and perceiving the Arms of the Infant to ſtop up the way, I wrung them round, and broke them; but tho' by this means I gained a little more room, yet was it not ſufficient to let me come at the lower parts of the Infant. There remained nothing

then

then to be done, but to try if the Head could be brought down by the Method afore-mentioned; but a ſtrong Convulſion ariſing, ſo firmly ſtraitned the Mouth of the Womb, and ſo much contracted all the Parts, that I was obliged to deſiſt from the Operation. She continued thus agonizing, 'till about Noon the next Day, when ſhe expired.

I earneſtly deſired, by having this Body opened, to demonſtrate to Mr. *W. Vinck*, (a Doctor of Phyſic, who read Lectures in that Faculty, and was then preſent at the Operation) this rare and perverſe Poſiture of the Womb and Infant, that it might be uſeful to others; but, as much as I intreated the Husband to grant me this Favour, yet he would by no means conſent thereto.

Theſe two Caſes were the moſt difficult that ever occurred to me in my Practice, tho' I have exerciſed the Art of Midwifery now for above forty Years.

I know not, whether after ſuch evident Demonſtrations, any, but the moſt obſtinate, will yet defend the old Opinion, or call in doubt ſuch like perverſe Situations of the Womb, and difficult Births thence enſuing, which I have therefrom deduced through my whole Book: Who does not alſo ſee, that they, who know not that a Womb can ſuffer ſuch a manifold Variation in reſpect of place, will never be able to conceive ſuch difficult Births? neither therefore will they

know well how to deſcribe them, and have made uſe, in delivering Women, of a very uncertain and random Method.

Before I quit this Subject of Infants lying reſupine, I have thought neceſſary to add yet ſomething of an Infant, which lying reſupine, touches with the Crown of his Head the *Oſſa Pubis*; nay, and very often falls down upon thoſe Bones. And what may be ſaid hereupon, relates chiefly to Midwives, who by their Ignorance often kill Children, and as very often alſo the Mother with the *Fœtus*; wherefore I deſire they would attentively conſider and execute what follows.

When the Bottom of the Womb plain enough lies towards the Back of the Woman, and eſpecially in thoſe, whoſe Loins are very hollow; then the Head of the Infant reſupine, very eaſily falls down upon the *Oſſa Pubis*, unleſs the Midwife hinders it in due time, by turning the Head and the oppoſite part, and as ſoon as may be, by putting it on the Orifice of the Womb, which ſhe ought to do while the Membranes are yet entire, or immediately after their Rupture.

While the Membranes are entire, ſhe may really (if ſhe be well skilled, and minds diligently her Buſineſs) perceive, whether the Crown, or whether the hinder part of the Head lies upon the Orifice of the Womb; for the Crown hath a round and ſomewhat acuminated Figure; but the hinder part is more

more oblong and plain; the Crown hath an open place giving way to the Touch, but the other is hard and boney. When ſhe perceives, not the Crown, but the hinder part to lie upon the Orifice of the Womb, ſhe ought not to ſit down quietly, and prolong the time, but be vigilant, and go to work, immediately, that is, ſhe muſt labour both outwardly and inwardly; outwardly, ſhe ought with one Hand upon the *Oſſa Pubis*, at every Pain, to retain the Head of the Infant, and preſs it downwards; and inwardly, ſhe muſt, when the Pains ceaſe, remove the Head from the *Oſſa Pubis*, and ſo make way for the Crown: and in ſo doing ſhe muſt perſiſt, 'till the Crown hangs directly over the Orifice of the Womb. And hitherto ſhe ought not to perſuade the Woman ſtrongly to urge her Pains; for the ſtronger ſhe depreſſes the Head, the ſooner it falls down over the *Oſſa Pubis*; which, when once it is fallen down thither, then is it out of her power to put the Crown on the Orifice of the Womb: and when ſhe cannot do this, the Mother and Infant's Buſineſs is done; for the Woman cannot be delivered after this manner, the Membranes indeed will be broken, and the Waters flow out, but the Head remains there tranſverſly fixed on the *Pelvis*.

If the firſt Occaſion be neglected, that is, if the Crown of the Head, the Membranes

being not yet broken, is fallen down upon the *Oſſa Pubis*; upon the breaking of the Membranes, ſhe ought immediately to endeavour, with unwearied Application, to retroduce the Head, and place the Crown on the Orifice of the Womb, which neceſſariiy muſt be done, otherwiſe the Mother periſhes with the *Fœtus*; or the skilful Hand of an expert Maſter in the Art muſt thence draw forth the Infant either dead or alive: I ſay dead or alive, and the ſooner the better; for it is better, if it cannot be otherwiſe, that the Child ſhould die, and the Mother be ſaved, than that the Mother ſhould with the *Fœtus* certainly periſh, who, unleſs ſhe receive timely Succour, ſhe unavoidably muſt.

I cannot ſufficiently wonder at the groſs Ignorance of moſt Midwives, who quietly for many Days attend ſuch a Woman. If the Husband, Relations, or Phyſician, asks after what manner the Child comes on? what Part offers itſelf? They anſwer, Very well, that the Head lies over the Orifice of the Womb; but it ſtops there, Pains are wanting, or they advance nothing; we muſt wait with patience, 'till it ſhall pleaſe God to put an end to the Work.

But when will the Pains urge more ſtrongly! O inexcuſable Ignorance! O ſtupid Imprudence! in ſuch a Situation, which we may ſearch out by the Hand and Fingers, and which we may know in a quarter of an Hour

Hour or leſs, which notwithſtanding an ignorant Midwife, and one grown old in Error, is wholly ignorant of all her Life. She deſires Remedies to urge and incite Pains, that ſo the Infant may be expreſſed, not conſidering whether ſuch Pains do either hurt or avail the Birth; for what good can they do, as long as the Head of the Infant remains thus fixed? Thus they more and more preſs it down, a nd neither ſhe, nor the Phyſician perceives, that they both join their Forces together to deſtroy the Woman, while they endeavour to deliver her by this perverſe Method; whereas they ſhould call to their Aſſiſtance the Aid of a more prudent Perſon, who with his skilful Hand might expeditiouſly do this Office. The Relations and Neighbours place their Confidence in the Phyſician and Midwife; the Phyſician, he preſcribes by what the Midwife tells him; but the Midwife is either ignorant, or proud: Ignorant, while ſhe knows not whether the Child thus poſited can come forth, or not; and proud in this, that ſhe covers her Ignorance: And ſo the Mother periſhes with the *Fœtus*, either thro' the want of Skill, or the Pride of the Midwife.

The Relations, indeed, bewail their Loſs; but who thinks that both Mother and Child periſhed through Negligence? who enquires into the true Cauſe of this Murder? who ſtudies

ſtudies to prevent it? who endeavours to reſiſt an Evil ſo mortal?

Thus things ſucceſſively run on for many Years, without any one's Care or Notice; nor does it ſeem a Crime to ſuffer ſo many Men to periſh who might have been ſaved, becauſe the Cuſtom of doing and ſeeing ſuch things has now a long while prevailed, and not the leaſt Scruple ariſes, whether it could have been otherwiſe?

That the common Herd ſhould remain in this Blindneſs and Ignorance, may be excuſed; but that, Men of Learning, *viz.* Doctors, Magiſtrates, *&c.* ſhould take no manner of Care herein, exceeds all Comprehenſion. This Book has now appeared ever ſince the Year 1701*, in which I have ſo manifeſtly demonſtrated the Errors of Antiquity, as well as the Unskilfulneſs of all Midwives, to whom the Deſtruction of ſo many Matrons may be imputed. But who believes this? who has dived into the Truth of this Affair? The Matter has hitherto remain'd in its old Condition.

This Calamity affects the Rich, as well as the Poor; for they who are unskilled in relation to the one, are ſo in reſpect of the other; and indeed the Rich are equally neglected. How comes it then to paſs that People's Eyes are not opened, at leaſt that things are not examined into? Have I not clearly enough deſcribed this Subject, that it

* i. e *The* Firſt Part *of this Work.*

may

may be underſtood by every body? I offer my ſelf, for the common Good, to all Magiſtrates and Men in Power, who deſire to examine hereinto, for the love they bear the Public. I offer my ſelf, I ſay, in the Preſence of our Auguſt Magiſtracy, before as many Doctors of Phyſic as they ſhall appoint; where I ſhall make ſuch evident and manifeſt Demonſtrations of what I advance, and that too ſo clear, that their Excellencies may eaſily be convinced of it.

Grant then, O ye moſt illuſtrious Governours of our Country and Cities, that I may, with that Reverence which is due to you, implore of you, why you command dead Bodies to be Inſpected, when there ariſes a juſt Suſpicion that they periſhed by a violent Death? It will very likely be anſwered, that this is done with Intent that the Guilty might be puniſhed. I confeſs this Inſtitution is praiſe-worthy; but if every Year, in all populous Cities, a great many more Women periſh through the Negligence and Ignorance of Midwives, than are murdered by the Hands of Villains, ought not an Examination and Inſpection hereof to paſs into a Law? Firſt, that it may be known, whether the Midwife has not killed the Infant: Secondly, whether the Mother, together with the *Fœtus*, did periſh through the Midwife's Careleſſneſs? that ſuch a Deſtruction of the Infant, or Negligence, might be puniſhed; at leaſt by

by forbidding ſuch Midwives to exerciſe their Office for a time, or for ever, whilſt others, more skilful, might in the mean time ſupply their places.

If any one ask, Whether it be always poſſible that we might know, by the Inſpection of the Body of a dead Woman, whether ſuch Woman, together with her Child, died by the Careleſſneſs of the Midwife? I anſwer, Moſt certainly; it is always poſſible for ſuch Perſons, who clearly underſtand the Art of delivering Women, and as eaſily to judge herein, as to diſcern, whether any given Wound be mortal, or not: And I am certain, that we ſhould find, were ſuch an Examination enacted by Law, that if not all, at leaſt moſt Women, who die in Childbed with the *Fœtus* within them, periſh by the rude Hand or Careleſſneſs of the Midwife. Is it not therefore a ſad thing; nay, what is much to be lamented, not vigilantly to look into the wicked Slaughter of ſo many Infants, and that ſuch faithful Admonitions ſhould be contemned?

Perhaps ſome Phyſicians will ſay, That it is impoſſible, by this Inſpection, here to judge, whether the Infant be killed by the Midwife, or the Woman, through the blamed Ignorance of the Midwife, died without bringing forth the *Fœtus*; not thinking themſelves fit ſtrictly to judge of this Affair: and perhaps they will diſſuade the Magiſtrate,

ſtrate, whom they ought to urge thereto, from this Inſpection. But I affirm the contrary, and am ready to prove by Facts, and ſo evidently demonſtrate it, that any Magiſtrate, nay a Carpenter, may eaſily underſtand it.

There are alſo ſome Phyſicians, who give no Credit to theſe perverſe and untoward Poſitures of the Womb in ſome Women; but if we would examine into this Affair, by Inſpecting dead Bodies, they would believe it; for they might ſee it with their own Eyes, and handle it with their own Hands; and let thoſe, who deſire to be convinced, be preſent while I deliver a Woman, and I will make them ſo ſenſible of this perverſe Poſiture, by putting their Hand exteriorly on the Body, that they ſhall remain no longer incredulous, and be ſatisfied that I have written the Truth: And if I as certainly know this, as that I know it is Day, when I ſee the Sun ſhine, ſuch Phyſicians of conſequence are ignorant of this thing, of which they ought to have a perfect Knowledge; and if the Midwives are ignorant of it, they are at the ſame time ignorant of their Duty.

What therefore are ye doing, ye Doctors, when from the Accounts of ſuch unskilful Midwives you preſcribe your Medicaments? Again I ask, what do ye mean, by confiding in the Sayings of ſuch ſtupid Women?

You

You drive the Veſſel on the Sands, and deſtroy the Mother with the Child; whereas, did ye but underſtand the true State of things, the religious Care only of your Souls would make ye abhor ſuch Practices. By what I here ſay, I would not put a Mark on any one; but I ſpeak out of that Love and Fidelity which I owe to all Men, and the Commonwealth, as I hope others will ſpeak to me, in order to inſtruct me better; for I do not think my ſelf more than human: I carry the Man about me, nor does my Age hinder me from learning better; and I think theſe faithful Admonitions ought to be received, for I condemn no one without juſt Cauſe.

If the Actions of Midwives were ſuſpected, and examined into, how great and how many Errors would be detected; and how ſhould we be aſtoniſhed to ſee ſuch horrible Tortures of Mothers and Infants! This Woman, having taken hold of the Arms of a living Infant, draws them out with ſuch Violence, that you may eaſily put your Thumb in between the Arm and Shoulder; and thus a Gangrene enſues, which, after having devoured the Child, deſtroys the Mother. Another, bores through the Infant's Skull, and takes out his Brains, that ſo ſhe might draw him forth; which done, without asking leave of the Woman or Husband, leaves her weltring in Blood, and the Infant rotting in her Womb.

Womb. Hence ariſes an intolerable Stench, which inflames the Womb, and kills the Mother: And why need we wonder that theſe things are thus tranſacted? Every thing may be done, no one demands an Account, no body examines into the Fact, every thing is done privately, and remains undiſcovered and unlooked into. For the Watchmen are aſleep, and the Phyſician thinks he has done enough in preſcribing; nor does the Magiſtrate enquire farther hereinto, the dead Woman is delivered over to be forgotten, and this is enough. But, O ſorrowful Husband, and much to be lamented Children! of whom the one loſes a Wife, the others a Mother. Thus one for ſo many Years together ſucceſſively follows another; thus expoſed is the Life of the deareſt Pledges, never to be redeemed by any Price or Ranſom.

Ought we therefore to excuſe ſuch Crimes, becauſe they are done in Secret? So wickedly to puniſh and deſtroy Infants alive, and thus with her Infant deſtroy the Mother, are not theſe things horrid and abominable! Do they not require to be looked into? Do not theſe Crimes deſerve to be puniſhed!

Not long ſince, in a Village called *Wilſveen*, I delivered, in leſs than half an Hour, a Country Woman of a dead Infant, which, as the Woman herſelf, and the Standers by, teſtified was alive the Day before; and

which,

which, as I was drawing him out with my Hands, without any Inſtrument, ſent out a moſt horrid Stench of a dead Body. The true Reaſon of this, was, that a certain Midwife, as it was told me, having put a Nooſe round the Child's Arm, bid two ſtrong Women pull it forward, 'till the Arm, torn from the Body, hung only by a little Skin, and ſo left the Woman, as one that could by no means be delivered. What dreadful Miſtakes were farther committed in this Torture, I cannot certainly ſay, relating only here what was told me: But this I know, that, when I ſearched the lying-in Woman with my Hand, I found the two Arms hanging down out of the Womb, and that one of the Child's Arms hung only by a thin kin about ſix Inches diſtant from the Shoulder, by which means all the Blood-Veſſels and Nerves being torn and broken aſunder, it was impoſſible but all the Infant's Body muſt have been affected with a Gangrene, as I found it was; for the Child being inverted, and not forcibly drawn out by the Feet, was from the Head to the Foot all over moſt horridly gangrened; nay, the Gangrene had even penetrated ſo far, that not only the Navel-String, but the whole After-birth was already waſted away with a Gangrene, or rather with a *Sphacelus*, or perfect Rottenneſs, which then was of a cadaverous and leaden Colour: whence I concluded, that the Womb alſo

was

was gangrened, and the Woman in great danger of death, which was but too true, for ſome Days after ſhe died.

And if ſuch Crimes as theſe, how much ſoever they ſhould be puniſhed, are ſuffered to go on with Impunity, you will permit me, I hope, at leaſt, faithfully to detect and demonſtrate them to the World, not with an Intention to accuſe any one. Perhaps it might do ſome good, if thoſe, whoſe Rank and Office ſo require, would be vigilant herein, and in this Caſe, with united Induſtry, ſtudy the Common Good, and give ear to theſe Obſervations and Advice. If this be done, I ſhall render Thanks to God; if not, I am innocent before him, for I have not held my peace, but have detected thoſe Dangers, and clearly demonſtrated them, and have eaſed my Mind of that Burden; the reſt I commend to God, who ſearches the Hearts of Men, and to whom every one muſt give an account of what he has done, and of what he has neglected.

Perhaps you will deſire to know, how, by the Inſpection of a dead Body, it may be ſeen, whether the Woman, who died with the *Fœtus* within her, died of a natural Death, or periſhed by the Careleſſneſs of the Midwife? That therefore it may evidently appear, becauſe I am perhaps the firſt who have diſcourſed after this manner, that what I have ſaid, tho' at the firſt Glance it will

ſeem a very Paradox, was not without good Foundation, I ſhall willingly ſatisfy this Deſire: But before I come to do ſo, I ſhall firſt entirely finiſh, what yet remains to be ſaid in relation to difficult Births; then I ſhall come to the Midwives Touchſtone and Shield of Defence; and there, together with what has been the Practice and Office of the moſt famous Phyſicians, I ſhall mention my own. At laſt, I ſhall ſay ſomewhat of *Inſpection*, and demonſtrate, how it may be known, whether a Woman, dying with the *Fœtus* in her Womb, died a natural Death, or not.

A WONDERFUL CASE.

In my firſt part * I ſhewed, what Evils are to be dreaded, when the *Pelvis* of a Woman is too wide, and what the Midwife ſhould do, to be forewarned of, and prevent in ſuch a Caſe the immnent Evils, and perhaps fatal Events that may thence ariſe: I have nothing more to add to what has been ſaid in that Chapter, on this Subject; but only to confirm what has been ſaid, I ſhall here relate a very ſingular Caſe, the like to which I never before or ſince met with.

I was ſent for ſome time ago to a certain Place a little out of the *Hague*, in the

* *Chap.* 27.

Street

Street which leads to the Windmill, called, *The Fools-ſtreet*, to a Woman in Labour, where indeed I ſaw a very melancholy Spectacle; the Child's Head at the Shoulders hung out of the Mother's Womb, even without the *Pudenda*; and yet the naked Crown only appeared, three fourth parts of the Head remaining ſtill within the Womb: ſo that the Womb, together with the Infant's Head at the Shoulders, hung even without the *Pudenda*. The Midwife, not without Cauſe, was in very great trouble of mind, and could by no means diſengage herſelf from this difficulty. I delivered the Woman, and I confeſs, I found much more difficulty in it than I at firſt had imagined; becauſe I did not dare to pull forward the Infant, for fear I ſhould draw out the whole Womb along with it.

By this Example, Midwives may ſee, how neceſſary it is for them to obſerve the Inſtructions I give in the firſt Part, * leſt by this means ſhe ruſh on, thoughtleſs and unprovided, to the Ruin of Child and Mother, when they do not ſtay, and keep back the Orifice of the Womb, as I have taught them in the aforeſaid Chapter.

* *Chap.* 27.

CHAP. IV.

Of a Difficult Birth *occaſioned by Defect of Pains, or by Fault of ſuch as are ſpurious.*

HAVING thoroughly treated of difficult Births, to crown the whole, I ſhall ſay ſomething of ſpurious Pains, which are by others called wandering, fugitive, or flitting Pains.

Every one knows, that Pains are neceſſary to a Birth; for theſe natural Pains, called by ſome *Spaſms*, muſt force out the Infant: By natural Pains, or due Labours, we underſtand, *ſuch ſpontaneous Motions, by which the Muſcles of the* Abdomen, *and the* Viſcera Abdominalia, *by contracting themſelves, urge and depreſs the Womb with ſuch a ſtrong Preſſure, as if the whole Womb was going to be expreſſed out of the Body.* And by the Help of theſe Pains or Labours the Orifice of the Womb is dilated by the Waters, the *Fœtus* is impelled, and thruſt out of its Priſon; and conſequently by this means the Woman is happily delivered, if nothing interferes that may hinder or retard the Birth.

But

But when it happens, that theſe natural Pains are entirely wanting (which Pains are moſt like thoſe, which every one who is coſtive, experiences in going to Stool, but with this difference, that theſe urge and ſtrain the *Inteſtinum Rectum* but thoſe the Womb) or are either not ſufficiently ſtrong, or perverſe and untoward) the Birth is hindered and retarded by them.

As is *a vain Endeavour to go to Stool*, or *Teneſmus*; ſo alſo *ſpurious* are the *Pains* of theſe Women, which are called *Vagi*, or *Tergiverſantes Labores*, *wandring or fugitive Pains*. Women having theſe Pains, are ſeen at certain periods to labour under ſtrong Preſſions; but before that *Teneſmus*, or due Depreſſion begins, theſe Motions ceaſe, and are changed into a ſpaſmodical Pain, which when the Woman is ſeized with, ſhe cannot labour: The Remedy to change theſe ſpurious Pains into the genuine or natural ones, I have elſewhere deſcribed. *

I ſhall add to this, that in theſe ſpurious Pains, no urging or provoking Medicines muſt be given, for they only increaſe the Anguiſh; but on the contrary, *Anodynes* and *Emollients*, and then it will appear, that the Pains, by the Inſtigation of Nature, will redouble. This Advice ſome Phyſicians have

* *Part* I. *Chap.* 18.

laughed at and ridiculed; but the ſage and skilful ones have gratefully received it. So true is it in all things, according to the Proverb, *That one praiſes what another condemns*; and I acquieſce in what I have ſaid, which has been confirmed by the Experience of above thirty Years.

But it ſometimes happens, that thoſe Pains, which in the beginning promiſed to be ſufficiently efficacious, have diminiſhed very much, or even entirely ceaſed; and this for the moſt part happens, if not always, thro' want of Help. It often happens, becauſe the Infant ſticks faſt and immoveable by the Head, Shoulders, or other Parts; nor is it therefore puſhed forward, by which means Nature, as tho' quite wearied out, droops and languiſhes as we have elſewhere mentioned, and therefore we ſhall not ſay any more of it here.

But if, as it may happen, that *the Pains ſhould diminiſh and quite ceaſe*, provided the Infant be well turned in a right-placed Womb, I adviſe in ſuch Caſe to let the Woman alone, 'till the Pains return of their own accord; but if the Infant comes too much on to remain ſo, it may be tried, whether, by injecting a Clyſter, as I have elſewhere taken notice of, *the Pains can be incited.* If this avails nothing, we muſt ſeek for the Aid of a skilful Phyſician; but the Midwife ought firſt carefully to conſider,

whether

whether nothing may or ought to be done by help of the hand to aid the Birth, and bring forward the Child; for moſt commonly a skilful Midwife, or a dexterous Maſter in the Art, do more by exerciſing their Hands to promote the Birth, than even a knowing Phyſician can perform with his moſt efficacious Medicaments.

I full well know, that a Birth may be rendred very eaſy by efficacious Remedies; but I have found by long Obſervation, that thoſe which are vehemently ſtimulating, given to Women in this Condition, are extremely hurtful and pernicious: Nay, I am of this Sentiment, and am firmly perſuaded, that many Women might have been ſaved, if the Hand had been prudently exerciſed, without taking any Medicines provoking Pains, who by the uſe, or rather abuſe of ſuch Remedies, together with their being ſo much otherwiſe debilitated, have actually periſhed.

I thank God, that I am not guilty of this Abuſe of giving many things inwardly, having experienced, that almoſt all Women, may ſoon and ſafely be delivered by the help of an able Hand, provided they have ſufficient Strength to endure, for a little ſpace, thoſe Uneaſineſſes which neceſſarily muſt be made uſe of in order for their delivery. I boldly challenge all the Women, which I have delivered for the ſpace of 28 or 30

Years, reckoning the reſt of the time I practiſed, amongſt the Years of my Ignorance, when I travelled the beaten Road: and I candidly declare, that I do not know, that in all this time, I attended more than two or three Women, with whom I laboured in vain; all the reſt I happily delivered in a very ſmall time, and that too without any Medicines to urge or incite the Pains, and for the moſt part without applying any Inſtruments, never making uſe of any but when Infants in Wombs, obliquely poſited with their Head, are moſt ſtrongly appreſſed to the *Oſſa Pubis*, and the Mothers, by a too long continued Labour, have been quite broken and debilitated; for which reaſon I have been forced to put a period to their Torments, and quickly deliver them: tc do which, I have indeed ſometimes, but very ſeldom, broken one or both Arms by wringing them round, which yet for the ſpace of thirty Years, to the beſt of my Remembrance, I did only twice or thrice; and becauſe, I have learned by the Event, how little it helped me, I do not think I ſhall ever do the ſame again: And therefore I adviſe all Midwives, that they would omit this Practice, tho' indeed it can do no hurt or injury to a dead Child, nor give the Mother any Pain, yet the Standers-by look on it as a thing full of Horror, and proclaim it as an Action moſt cruel.

Nor

Nor do I know, that I ever tore or did hurt to a Woman any other way, ſo as there might remain any Inconveniency from thence ariſing, except one Woman only, of whom I ſhall hereafter make mention: And I remember that I only once or twice perceived that the *Pudenda* being too hard and leſs tractable, were torn by the Head of the Infant as it paſſed through. Nay, I do not know, that any of theſe Women ever laboured with an involuntary dropping of Urine, or falling down of the Womb, or any other remarkable Inconveniency; for which I give repeated Thanks to Almighty God.

I therefore adviſe all Midwives, as much as they can, with a skilful Hand to prevent, or remove every thing which may retard the Birth, that ſo they may promote a ſudden Delivery; and they will find, that they alſo will have juſt Cauſe to give God Thanks, and that they will be able, with leſs trouble of Mind, to give a more efficacious Aſſiſtance to their Women; nor bring things into ſuch Straits, as they uſed before to do, while they placed too much Truſt and Confidence in Medicines inciting Pains, and gave not to their Women by a ſufficiently skilful Artifice, that Aid and Succour which was their due: which earneſtly wiſhing to all, who deſire this from God, I ſhall put an end to diſcourſing of difficult Births, and come to to *the Midwives Touchſtone and Shield of De-*

Defence ; and, after having thoroughly treated thereof, proceed to *Inſpection*.

CHAP. V.

The Midwives Touchſtone and Shield of Defence.

THE *Touchſtone* is made uſe of to diſtinguiſh Gold and Silver from other Metals : as alſo that it may appear whether Gold and Silver be pure, or mixed with other Metals. In like manner the following Queſtions and Anſwers will ſerve us, to diſtinguiſh, whether a Midwife is knowing and obſervant of her Art and Office, ſo that the Husband and Relations of the Woman, or the Phyſician whom they make uſe of in this Caſe, may ſafely confide in what the Midwife does, whom they have ſent for to aſſiſt her.

Now, as this *Touchſtone*, by the Queſtions and Anſwers given, may ſerve as a Security to the Phyſician, and the Friends of the Woman in Travail ; ſo alſo an Anſwer ſupported by Truth, and a faithful Narration of the Midwife, may ſupply the place of a Shield, by which ſhe may defend herſelf,

ſelf, and repel all perverſe and malignant Accuſations whereby unskilful and malevolent Perſons endeavour to caſt the blame of a difficult Birth on the Midwife, tho' ſhe be in no manner the Occaſion of it.

Equity requires, that we ſhould equitably deal with every body; and there is no Man acts with ſo much Prudence and Fidelity, but that he may be expoſed to the Contumelies of malevolent Perſons: and therefore it is but juſt and equitable, that, as much as we can, we ſhould lay a firm Foundation for Truth, by which Well-doers may be diſtinguiſhed from thoſe that do otherwiſe; that, Judgment may be paſt, not from the Motives of Love or Hatred, but from the Nature of the thing it ſelf.

No Man of ſound Mind will deny, but that *Sincerity* and *Ingenuity*, whereby any one is ready to give an Account of his Actions, are Signs of *Candour*: for let us ſuppoſe, that a Midwife is not endued with that neceſſary Knowledge and Dexterity, which are requiſite to deliver a Woman; yet, if ſhe be candid, ſhe will voluntarily give an Account what ſhe has done, when thereunto required. If therefore ſuch a one wants Skill, yet ſhe ſhews by her Ingenuity, that ſhe has a good Will not to continue ſo, and is ready to learn better, that ſhe may do better for the future,

ture, or yield up the Task, if it exceeds her Induſtry, to one more skilful.

But when a Phyſician, or the Woman in labour herſelf, or any Relation, deſires of the Midwife to know the Condition of the Woman; to wit, how the Waters are formed, what Situation the Womb is in, whether the Infant lies directly, perverſly, towards the Orifice, what Member firſt offers, *&c.* and the Midwife refuſes to anſwer, or endeavours to ſtop your Enquiry with an equivocal Anſwer, ſhe wants Candor, and endeavours to cover her Ignorance: But let no Motive ſway you, to truſt either in her Words or Dexterity; for if ſhe be ſo well experienced as ſufficiently to diſtinguiſh by the Touch the Parts as they are offered, if ſhe is well acquainted with them, why does ſhe endeavour to hide the true State and Condition of Things? What Hurt, what Damage will enſue, if ſhe declare things to be as they really are? But, *latet Anguis in Herba*, there lurks a Snake in the Graſs; ſhe knows that ſhe does not ſufficiently know the State and Condition of things, and therefore ſhe is aſhamed of being found ignorant, and dares not ſay, *I do not know.*

For ſhe, who is deſirous to be eſteemed knowing in all things, dares not confeſs ſhe knows nothing of them; and very well knows, that if ſhe ſays, the Infant comes on with

with the Head, ſhe ſhall be confounded with Shame, if afterwards it be found that it was not the Head, but the Shoulders, or the Elbow, or the Knee of the Child. She knows, that if ſhe ſays, the Child comes on with the Buttocks, and afterwards it appears, that ſhe could not diſtinguiſh the Shoulder from the Buttocks, ſhe ſhall bluſh with Confuſion; and, to avoid this, ſhe ſays nothing or gives an equivocal Anſwer, or ſometimes anſwers the Enquirer in a paſſion, and grows angry. Now I leave every one to judge, what is to be hoped for from the Conduct of ſuch a Midwife? They who will commit themſelves to ſuch a Midwife, may if they pleaſe for me; but I would not expoſe my Wife, were ſhe alive, nor my Daughters to ſuch Danger.

EXAMINATION I.

That we may come to the Point, I ſay, that the firſt thing which the Phyſician, the Woman herſelf, or her Relations, ought to ask the Midwife, is, How the Waters may be, or then are already formed, whether oblong and ſlender, or ſhort and broad, or ſhort and even? how they offer themſelves to the Touch? If the Midwife ſay, that they appear to her oblong and ſlender, and hang out like a ſmall Gut; if this be true, you may be confidently aſſured that it will be a difficult

difficult Birth : for the Head of the Infant does not directly tend to the Orifice of the Womb, or the Womb is obliquely poſited. For if the Head did duly lie upon the Orifice of the Womb, and if the Orifice of the Womb directly lay upon the *Pelvis*, the Waters would be ſhort and broad, or ſhort and even, but not oblong and ſlender: which may eaſily be conceived, for the Head of the Infant lying directly on the Orifice and Cavity of the *Pelvis*, with the Crown of his Head, perfectly ſtops up the Orifice of the Womb, as a round Ball would ſtop up the Orifice of a Barrel, and that too all round about. When therefore the Pains force the Womb, then they depreſs the Waters, and make them ſhower all round the Head, whereby theſe Waters diſcharge two Offices; firſt, by their Preſſion they dilate the Mouth of the Womb; ſecondly, they extend and attenuate the Membranes of the *Secundines* : whence neceſſarily follow two other things; firſt, the Head by little and little falls down lower; ſecondly, the Waters immediately grow bigger and broader, and always round to the Touch, compoſe an orbicular Figure of the Aperture of the Womb. This in every Labour always happens 'till the Membranes are ſo attenuated, that at length not enduring a farther Extenſion they break, and the encloſed Waters flow

flow out, and then it is we ſay, that *the Membranes are broken.*

But if the Waters hang down, or without the Body, like a ſmall Gut, it is an evident Sign, that the Infant comes on after quite a different manner, or that the Womb is obliquely poſited; for whilſt the Crown of the Infant does not ſtop up the whole Circumference of the Orifice of the Womb, the Waters preſs the Membranes, and in ſome places protrude them downwards on one ſide. Thus the Waters, by ſlow degrees, deſcend more and more through this ſtrait Aperture, and that too ſo long and ſlender, that they hang out without the Body like a Sauſage; whence neceſſarily follow theſe two things.

Firſt, That the Waters deſcending after this manner, do not ſufficiently enlarge the Orifice of the Womb; Secondly, the Infant does not deſcend, but remains in the ſame Situation. If the Midwife ſays, that the Waters are expanded in a ſhort, broad and orbicular Figure, and that the Infant directly lies with his Crown upon the Orifice of the Womb, and bids you hope for a happy Birth, ſhe ſpeaks the Truth; or if ſhe ſhall ſay, that the Waters hang down ſmall and ſlender, and warns you of a difficult Birth, ſhe has done her Duty; and if ſhe knows there is any Danger, ſhe is obliged to tell you ſo: nothing can be better and more ſafe

both

both for the Infant and Mother, than to deliver the Woman immediately after the Membranes are broken, whether ſhe has her Pains, or not; for we ought not to trouble ourſelves about them in this Caſe, but the Infant ought to be drawn out with an artful Hand. If ſhe gives you no ſuch Warning, ſhe does not diſcharge her Duty, and expoſes both the Mother and Child to Danger either through Ignorance or Shame.

If the Midwife ſays, there is Danger, and propoſes the Neceſſity of a quick Delivery, ſhe has disburthened her Mind, and it is incumbent on you to look to it, whether you will commit this Charge to her Care; but on her, whether ſhe dare undertake it: If ſhe will, be it ſo; if not, ſend for another more experienced, for there is danger in delay.

If you rely upon the Midwife, you may give her one Hour or two at the moſt; if ſhe cannot do her Buſineſs in that time, ſhe does not underſtand her Duty: for ſuch a Delivery does not require ſo much time, and the Woman is in vain tormented. Send then for another, and cauſe the Woman to repoſe on her Bed, that ſhe may not loſe her Strength in vain, and refreſh her with Meat and Drink, that ſhe may thereby be better aſſiſted by another; and do not do like a great many, who wait one, two, three, nay four Days; the Woman and the Infant in the mean

mean time running the greateſt perils; but if you really deſire to ſave the Mother and Child, do not neglect ſo much as one Hour. They who ſway you otherwiſe, are in an Error, whether they do this deliberately, or out of Ignorance.

But if the Midwife has told the Truth, and informed you of the true State of things, you have found her skilful in this firſt Examination, and ſhe having nothing reaſonably to fear, may, to defend herſelf, make uſe of the Shield of Truth, and ſpeak out. I have mentioned the true State of things, told the Danger, and rightly adviſed; if they ſhall neglect it, on them, not on me, let the blame be laid.

But when you ask her, if ſhe does not inform you of the Danger, but ſhall cajole you with vain Hopes; and if afterwards the Woman be too lately delivered, or die with the Infant in her Body; ſhe is guilty of her Death, either by her Ignorance or Perfidy, and not worthy to diſcharge ſo weighty and momentous a Function, or to be numbered amongſt prudent and faithful Midwives.

EXAMINATION II.

The next Queſtion that deſervedly ought to be put to the Midwife, is, *How and in what Place the Orifice of the Womb is ſituated?* And conſequently, whether the

Womb be directly or obliquely poſited? or whether ſhe can reach the Aperture of the Womb, or not? whether ſhe can reach up to the whole Aperture, or only part of it? whether it is placed on one ſide of the *Pelvis*, or lie to, or upon, the *Oſſa Pubis?* or directly hangs over the Cavity of the *Pelvis?* whether retracted upwards, or hangs falling downwards? and how the Waters are formed?

Some, perhaps, will imagine, or tell you, that you comprehend too many things in this one Queſtion. I anſwer, That this one only thing is here required, which being timely known, is neceſſarily required; and indeed, properly ſpeaking, nothing more is here required, than where and how the Orifice of the Womb is placed, and how the Waters are formed? And if the Midwife does not know this, what Rule will ſhe have to act by? She will then, in ſuch a Caſe, be like to a Pilot without a Compaſs, and how can the Phyſician or Relations know whether the Birth is to be looked upon as difficult or eaſy?

Perhaps a Midwife may make anſwer to this, and ſay, that it is very eaſy to ask ſuch Queſtions, but what Midwife can directly anſwer them? Since we may make uſe of only one, or two Fingers, to ſearch the Woman by the Touch, how therefore is it poſſible for us to know the Poſiture of the Womb,

Womb, and what in its Aperture offers it ſelf to us?

I anſwer, One or two Fingers is ſufficient, to know the Situation of the Aperture of the Womb; and how the Waters are formed, may be known after this manner, *viz.* when the Infant lies with the Crown of his Head towards the Orifice, and falls down upon the *Pelvis*; but if, on the other hand, the Mouth of the Womb ſticks above the *Pelvis* ſideways, or lies lower down upon the *Os Sacrum*, then you cannot touch it with one or two Fingers, and thoſe Perſons who in ſuch a Caſe will not permit you to put your Hand up ſo far as is requiſite, deprive you of the Means, whereby you may know the true Situation of the Womb; and conſequently you can form no Judgment of it, nor declare what imminent Danger might enſue, or take the neceſſary Precautions, and ſo you are not any wiſe culpable.

If any one ſhall preſcribe ſuch a Rule or Method to Midwives, he ſhews himſelf wretchedly learned, or is deceived by Men little verſed in theſe Affairs; for had they but made trial of this, they would have been better informed, and not have preſcribed to others ſuch hurtful Methods.

But that Midwife, who is not tied down by ſuch Preſcriptions, ought not to heed them, but do that which is requiſite and neceſſary, in order to be convinced of the true

Situation of the Womb's Orifice, that ſhe may be able to inform the Phyſician, or Relations thereof, if they deſire it; and tho' they ſhould do ſo, for her own Satisfaction, and if the thing ſhould have ill Succeſs, ſhe may boldly ſay, I am not to blame, I told the Danger, and warned her Relations: This is her Shield, by which ſhe may repel all Calumny and Detraction.

If therefore a skilful Midwife can anſwer to this Queſtion, and tells you truly, that the Orifice of the Womb lies directly on the *Pelvis*, the Crown of the Head duly poſited at the Orifice of the Womb, and that it has already fallen into the Cavity of the *Pelvis*; that the Waters are formed ſhort and even, or broad; or that they are already broken, and good part of the Head hangs out: you may be very well ſatisfied, that an eaſy Birth muſt enſue, and a Midwife of an indifferent Capacity may eaſily perform what is to be done; nor is there any neceſſity of making much haſte, but leave the chief Buſineſs to Nature.

But if the Aperture of the Womb fall directly on the *Pelvis*, and the Crown of the Child's Head hang out enough, but yet ſticks above, it is a Sign denoting either a great Head, or a ſtrait and narrow *Pelvis*; for a ſmall Head falls very eaſily into a large *Pelvis*, and affords an eaſier Birth; and yet for all that, a great Head may paſs through, unleſs

leſs the *Pelvis*, being too much upon the Plain, it ſhould ſtick unmoveable on the middle of the *Oſſa Pubis*: and in ſuch a Caſe the Midwife ought to depreſs it towards that ſide, where the *Pelvis* offers itſelf more with greater ſpace, and you muſt give way patiently to time, 'till ſuch large Head, by little and little ſtretches it ſelf along, as I have before informed you.

I ſay, if the *Pelvis* be large enough, that the Infant may paſs through; for there are Women who have ſo ſtrait and plain a *Pelvis*, that a perfect *Fœtus* can no manner of wiſe paſs through, and conſequently in ſuch a Caſe the Woman muſt undergo the Operation of an Inciſion, without which there would be no Hopes or Expectancy of a Delivery; tho' indeed I never found a *Pelvis* ſo very narrow, yet for all that I make no doubt but ſuch there may be. An *Engliſh* Phyſician affirmed to me, that he ſaw ſuch a *Pelvis* in a Skeleton at *London*, in which the *Pelvis* was ſo ſtrait and ſhallow, that it was not two Fingers Breadth, through which moſt certainly an Infant could no ways poſſibly paſs.

But if the Midwife ſay, that the Orifice of the Womb lies up very high, and leans ſideways on the *Os Iſchion*, or is poſited or lies upon the *Oſſa Pubis*, or falls backward on the *Os Sacrum* or *Vertebræ* of the Loins, and that ſhe can only feel a ſmall part of it like

a little Half-Moon, and is not able to judge what Member offers itſelf, nor can contrive that the Orifice of the Womb ſhould fall down upon the *Pelvis*, and that from this Situation of the Aperture of the Womb it follows, that the Bottom of the Womb is poſited one way or other obliquely; things being in this Condition, according to the Information of the Midwife, you know that a difficult Birth muſt enſue, and that both Mother and *Fœtus* are in danger.

If the Midwife ſhall tell you there is imminent Danger, ſhe prudently and faithfully diſchargeth her Duty; if not, then ſhe has been wanting therein, either through lack of Skill, or Fear, or Shame: but be that as it will, Time ought here by no means to be in the leaſt neglected. If you deſire to ſave the Mother and Infant, do not make ſlight of this Advice; for there is ten times more danger, by waiting for a natural Delivery, than if you immediately delivered a Woman with an artful Hand. I ſpeak this, being fully convinced of its Truth; and if you obſerve theſe my faithful Admonitions in this reſpect, but a very few Women would die in Childbed, and a great many Infants would be ſaved, who die by waiting too long: for while you ſpin out delays, the Waters flow down, the Space of the Womb is immediately diminiſhed, the Paſſage rendered more ſtrait and narrow, the Infant harder by

by dryneſs and death, the Womb is more ſtrongly compreſſed by the *Viſcera Abdominalia*, and more deeply depreſſed if it be poſited ſideways, or in the forward hanging part of the *Abdomen*, the Woman's Strength is exhauſted by her Pains to no purpoſe, and the Woman, by little and little, is more and more debilitated; at laſt, there is no Aſſiſtance deſired, but when the Infant is already dead, and the Mother lies down but half alive; and though the Woman be then quickly enough delivered by a skilful Hand, and the dead Infant drawn forth, which now being a dead Carcaſs ſends out a Stench, and has infected the Womb, yet for all that the Mother periſhes, and then the death of the Woman is of neceſſity imputed to this artful Delivery; but as abſurdly, as if the death of a Man ſhould be aſcribed to the Rope that drew him half dead out of the Water.

I repeat it therefore again, that it is not the Delivery, but the delaying of a timely Delivery which deſtroys the Mother with the *Fœtus*. It is enough that I have given Teſtimony to Truth: he who refuſes to believe this, let him be incredulous to his own detriment and loſs; but they, who follow theſe Advices, will be able to be Witneſſes of the Truth: and afterwards, while I am yet alive, or when I am dead, this Practice will hold up its head and flouriſh, and then Experience will ſhew, that in theſe

things I had an Eye to the Common Good, and gave the beſt Counſel and Advice.

EXAMINATION III.

But if the Midwife ſay, that the Orifice of the Womb does indeed directly lie upon the *Pelvis*, but that the Crown of the Head is not there; and that on the contrary the Infant comes on with the ſide part of his Head, or his Face, or that the Navel-String comes along with the Head, or that a Hand or Foot may be felt, take care, and know for certain, that in ſuch a Caſe you ought immediately to aſſiſt the Woman, tho' the Membranes be ſtill entire: If ſhe ſay, ſhe does not know any thing is here to be done, ſhe is ignorant of her work; for ſhe ought not to reſt, before ſhe has brought only the Crown into the Orifice of the Womb, having removed the other parts to the ſide.

But if it happens, that the Crown of the Head cannot be brought into the Orifice, the Face being ſtrongly appreſſed and remaining unmoveable in the Orifice of the Womb, you muſt not uſe any Violence, to repel the Face, and by that means invert the Head, but ſhe ought to wait his coming out after that manner. If therefore the Midwife ſhall tell you, that ſhe has put back each Member thus coming out together, as the Foot, Hand, or Navel-ſtring on one ſide, or towards

towards the lower part of the Head, ſhe has duly diſcharged her Office; but if ſhe is herein dilatory, and cannot retroduce ſuch Member ſo offering itſelf, but permits it to fall down with the Head, it is a ſign ſhe is not ſufficiently Miſtreſs of her Buſineſs.

However it is poſſible, that the Pains may urge by ſuch ſhort Intervals, and ſo ſtrongly, that a Midwife, before the Membranes are broken, cannot retroduce with the Head the Member thus offering itſelf; and then in ſuch Caſe it muſt be done immediately after the breaking of the Membranes, or ſhe is ignorant in the Art.

EXAMINATION IV.

If the Midwife ſay, that the Orifice of the Womb lies indeed on the Middle of the *Pelvis*, but that nothing comes out but ſimple Water; and if thence ſhe knows how to predict, that a difficult Birth will enſue, ſhe ſhews herſelf ingenuous: for the Mother and *Fœtus* both are in Danger, and the beſt Remedy is, to deliver the Woman immediately after the Rupture of the Membranes; for the Infant lies tranſverſly either on his Back or Belly; the ſafeſt way is to invert him, and draw him out by his Feet. But if the Midwife does not know that ſuch Poſiture is dangerous, ſhe does not rightly underſtand

derſtand her Art, and 'tis a matter of the utmoſt danger to follow her Advice.

EXAMINATION V.

We diſcourſe here of a Womb rightly placed, which hangs directly over, or upon, the *Pelvis*, where the Head does not come out, but ſome Members of the Infant.

When therefore the Midwife tells you, that the Orifice of the Womb does indeed directly lie over or upon the *Pelvis*, but that inſtead of the Head ſome Member puts forward, or ſometimes the Navel-ſtring only; you are informed, that it will be a difficult Birth, and that the Woman ought to be delivered by an artful Hand immediately after the Membranes are broken; that the Mother and Infant, if then alive, may be ſaved.

I ſay, immediately after the Membranes are broken, it may ſafely be done; nor is the ſpace of one Hour requiſite, when for the moſt part half an Hour may be ſufficient for a Man well practiſed in this Art. If the Midwife can perform it, and ſhe may be confided in, let her do it; if not, let the Woman reſt, and do not weaken her by Pains in vain, but ſend for a more able Midwife, or skilful Maſter in the Art, who may deliver her ſafe and ſoon.

If only the Navel-ſtring comes out, it is credible that the Infant advances tranſverſly, lying

lying on his Belly; in this Caſe the Navel-ſtring muſt be retroduced, and the Infant drawn forth by the Feet.

If with the Navel-ſtring there comes a Hand, Foot, Elbow, or both Hands of the Infant, theſe muſt be retroduced, or put back, the Infant inverted, and drawn out by the Feet.

If a Knee offer itſelf, or one, or both Feet, the Knee muſt be retroduced, but both the Feet be laid upon the Orifice, and the Infant is thus to be drawn out; but always the Toes turning downwards with the Heels upwards, for this way cauſes the eaſieſt Birth.

If the Infant comes out with his Buttocks, he may indeed come out after this manner; but it is much better and more ſafe, to retroduce the Buttocks, and put the Feet upon the Orifice of the Womb, and draw him out; but take heed, that by Violence, or an untoward handling, you do not cripple the Infant's Thighs, and ſo make him lame.

If both the Feet come out together, the Midwife only muſt let them fall down, and gently draw them to her; if the Toes are downwards, and the Heels upwards, the birth comes on as well as one could deſire; if not, ſhe ought, taking both Feet in her Hands, by little and little, to invert the Infant as he comes on, and ſo promote his Iſſue.

In

In all theſe Caſes, as hath been ſaid, there ought to be a quick Delivery; but the ſafeſt, eaſieſt, and leaſt dangerous Method of all, is immediately after the breaking of the Membranes; and ſuch Delivery may be performed by a skilful Hand in leſs than an Hour's time, nay moſt commonly in leſs than half an Hour. Who does not therefore behold the much to be lamented and imprudent Errors of rude and unexperienced Midwives, who after the Membranes are broken, ſit by the Woman a whole day, nay, very often a great many days together, and yet do not deliver her, and ſo by their Careleſſneſs kill both the Mother and Child. Is not this horrid? is not this dreadful Negligence to be blamed? who dares approve of ſuch Careleſſneſs? who will not condemn it?

If the Midwife ſhall tell the danger, and own herſelf not capable quickly to deliver the Woman, ſhe is not to blame; if not, ſhe ſins, and ought to be puniſhed for her Negligence.

But you, O Phyſicians, my Companions and Collegues, who are ſometimes ſent for to lying-in Women, or their Relations, to aſſiſt the Midwife, that you might, if ſhe acts with too little Skill, or Imprudence, teach her better, or at leaſt inform her Relations of her want of Skill; ſuffer me, if you pleaſe, to ask you, whether you have not ſeen theſe horrid, abominable and wicked Spectacles?

cles? Do you not often, at the earneſt Deſire and Entreaty of theſe rude and ignorant Midwives, preſcribe forcing Remedies, and put the Woman into the Agonies of Death? and yet without delivering of her; and ſo you deſtroy the Mother with her Infant: when both, or one at leaſt, by the aſſiſtance of an artful Hand, might have been, in leſs than the ſpace of one Hour, freed from this danger. I would not have what I ſay to be interpreted as a Reproach or Reflexion on any one, or to make you aſhamed; no, but only candidly to admoniſh you: Look into your ſelves, and faithfully weigh what I have advanced, and then conſcientiouſly judge, what you ought to do.

Weigh, I beſeech you, theſe things attentively, in the preſence of God. If it be true, that all ill-turned Infants, in Wombs rightly placed, may be immediately, after the Rupture of the Membranes, inverted and drawn forth, and that a Woman in Labour may be thus delivered with her *Fœtus* and *Secundines*, without any previous taking of Medicines, and any Pains requiſite thereto; do not People therefore act extreamly ill in deferring ſuch a ſalutary Operation, in ſuch imminent Danger, of the Mother's periſhing together with her Infant, by ſo dilatory and unskilful Hand of a Midwife, who after the breaking of the Waters cannot deliver her.

You will ſay perhaps, tho' what has been here propoſed ſhould be true, yet would it be too dangerous to prefer this Method to any other; for who has experienced that theſe things are really true?

I would not, if I knew it, impoſe upon a Child, much leſs would I deceive a Neighbour in a thing of ſo much Moment: I ſolemnly affirm to you, that what has been ſaid is true, being ſufficiently ſatisfied in my Conſcience, that I muſt render an account to God, who knows all things; and if you are backward of belief, give credit to thoſe, who have ſent for me in due time, and they will every one Orally confirm the Truth of what I have here advanced.

I remember that not long ſince, I delivered ſeven Women at the *Hague*, and not only quickly diſpatched my Buſineſs with them all, but they all of them ſurvived the Operation, and lived afterwards in good State of Health, tho' I was not timely enough ſent for; but the eighth was in her Agony when I came to her: upon which, calling the Huſband aſide, I told him, I almoſt deſpaired of ſaving her Life, becauſe ſhe ſeemed to carry with her the Image of death; but yet if he deſired I ſhould deliver her, I would uſe all my Endeavours ſo to do. She had ſtrong Convulſions the Night before, and was in a high Fever; ſhe breathed ſhort, and with much difficulty; her Face was very much contracted,

contracted, and as it were cadaverous; but yet, at the desire of her Husband, I delivered her in half an Hour's time. But after the Child and the *Secundines* were drawn forth, the Woman died before she could be put to Bed; where it must be noted, that I delivered these eight Women of as many dead Infants, most of which might have been brought alive into the World, if they had sent for me in due time; but indeed Ignorance persuades Men, that it is not decent for a Woman to be delivered by a Man, unless the Infant be dead; which Error has proved so prejudicial to many Infants, and Women of good fashion, as to be the death of both.

Permit me again to ask you, if any Infants, ill-turned in a Womb rightly placed, may be inverted, and brought forth in an Hour's time? Are not therefore the Physicians and Midwives obliged to tell this to the Women, Husbands, and Relations, and propose to them the best Method of saving the Mother? or, on the contrary, are they not to be accused of Negligence if they omit these things? And so, without admonishing of the Relations, they let the Mother perish with her Infant.

I am now in hopes, that People, better informed and convinced of the Truth, will no longer err, but most faithfully serve their Neighbour, laying aside all private Interest

and

and Advantages whatſoever. I am obliged alſo, in order to excuſe and defend all well-meaning Phyſicians, to give them this Advice, when they are ſent for to Women in Labour, that they lie under the greateſt difficulties; firſt, becauſe ſuch ſalutary Advice of delivering Women by Men is ſo little agreeable, and moreover, becauſe it is ſo difficult to find a Maſter in the Art capable of ſuch Operation, and ſo troubleſome and inconvenient, to ſend for him from Places very remote, at the Expence of ſo much Time and Money: for, as too often it happens, ſuch a skilful Perſon is not to be found in any City, how great and populous ſoever it may be; ſo that all are not to be blamed in this reſpect; for when they have adviſed what is to be done, they have diſcharged their Duty.

If therefore the Midwife is conſcious of any Danger attending the aforeſaid Poſitures of Infants, and notwithſtanding does not deliver the Woman, through want of Care requiſite thereto; and if ſhe does not advertiſe the Woman, Husband or Relations, but deludes them on with vain Hopes, and the Mother by ſo doing periſhes with her Infant; does not ſuch a Midwife in this Caſe commit a great Sin, and ought ſhe not to be puniſhed by the Law? Ought not careful and vigilant Magiſtrates to look into theſe things, that ſuch mortal Errors may be thoroughly examined? that they may correct them, and

enact

enact very ſevere Penalties, for ſuch Negligence, for the Good of Mankind.

I could ſay much more on this Subject, if I had a mind to dwell upon that vaſt Variety of Caſes relating hereunto; but I think what I have ſaid ſufficient to intelligent Perſons; nor indeed would any thing more be agreeable to the Malevolent: for which Reaſon I ſhall finiſh this *Topic*, and paſs on to *Inſpection*.

CHAP. VI.

How, by the Inſpection of a dead Body, may be diſcovered, whether a Woman dying with the Fœtus *within her, died of a natural Death, or periſhed through the Negligence or Unskilfulneſs of the Midwife.*

THAT I may not immediately involve my ſelf in certain *Hypotheſes* which may be doubted of, I ſhall ſpeak firſt of Women, that die with the *Fœtus* within them, the Infant however being well turned in a right-placed Womb. Such a Woman may indeed, either by Sickneſs, or want of Strength, fall into ſuch a Weakneſs, as not to be able to produce Iſſue, or ſome fault might be in the genital Parts: And in ſuch Caſe of Weakneſs, or ill Conformation of the genital Parts, the Midwife is not to be accuſed; and yet I am of Opinion, that this very rarely happens: for as long as both the Womb and Infant lie in a right Line upon the *Pelvis*,

Pelvis, there is occaſion of none, or of very weak Pains; for ſuch an Infant may moſt eaſily, and without any trouble, be brought into the World without them.

But if, by inſpecting the dead Body of a Woman who died in Childbed, the Womb appears to be rightly placed, and the Infant therein ſo poſited, that it does not come on with his Head, but with one Hand, Arm, Knee, Elbow, or one of the Feet, the Navel-ſtring, Buttocks, *Abdomen*, Breaſt, in a word, with any Member of his Body, and the Woman have Strength at ſuch time of her Labours; and the Membranes be broken; and if, immediately, after the Deflux of the Humours, the Delivery (which might be done in half an Hour's time) be not performed, but left to Nature, and the Midwife never told its Danger, nor adviſed a quick Delivery; it is a ſign, that the Mother died with her Infant by Careleſſneſs, and that the Midwife was guilty of that Negligence, and therefore ought to be puniſhed: for had ſhe given due notice of the danger, the Woman might have been delivered in leſs than an Hour's time, and there might have been great Hopes of ſaving both Mother and Child, or at leaſt one of them.

Certainly ſuch a Caſe may clearly be determined by the Inſpection of the dead Body; for no Phyſician, Profeſſor of Anatomy, or any other, who well know the

Structure of the genital Parts of a Woman, can deny, but that by opening the Body of a Woman who died in Childbed, we may clearly and evidently ſee and be ſatisfied of theſe two things following, *viz.* Firſt, whether the Orifice of the Womb directly lies over the Aperture of the *Pelvis*, or not? Secondly, it may be eaſily found out what Member of the Infant offers itſelf to the Mouth, or lies on the Orifice of the Womb. If therefore theſe two things may be ſo diſtinctly and evidently found out and perceived, we may alſo from Inſpection certainly and firmly judge whether the Woman periſhed through Neglect, or not.

But if it be found, that the Woman periſhed by Neglect, the Queſtion is, whether the Midwife knew the perverſe Situation of the Infant in the Womb, or not? If ſhe knew it not, ſhe is ignorant of her Art; if ſhe knew the Danger, and did not ſpeak of it, nor timely deſire Aſſiſtance, ſhe is guilty of the Murder both of the Mother and Infant. If this be really falſe, then two and two do not make four, nor three and two make five; but if it be true, it is no leſs certain, that by the Inſpection of a dead Body, one may indubitably determine and diſtinguiſh, whether the Woman periſhed by Neglect of the Midwife, or not: And if by Inſpection we may be aſſured hereof, I leave any one to judge, whether a Means ſo certain

tain ought not to be made uſe of for the Publick Good.

The Second Degree.

But if, by inſpecting the Body, it appear, that the Womb is perverſly placed in the Body, and the Orifice of the Womb lie on or towards one ſide of the *Pelvis*, or the *Os Iſchion*, or *Os Ilion*, or be laid towards the forepart of the Body upon the *Oſſa Pubis*, or towards the hinder parts of the Body lie reclined on the *Vertebræ* of the Loins, or Eminence of the *Os Sacrum*, a little higher or lower, it matters not; and not the Head, but any Member at or upon the Orifice of the Womb; the queſtion is, whether the Midwife knew this perverſe Poſiture, or not? If ſhe did not, ſhe was not ſufficiently inſtructed in her Art; if ſhe knew it, it is a farther queſtion, if ſhe owned the danger of ſuch Poſiture? If not, ſhe is ignorant of her Art; but if ſhe ſaw the Danger, and did not inform the Woman, or her Relations, nor faithfully adviſe and perſuade them to have the Woman timely delivered, immediately on the Deflux of the Waters, or quickly ſoon after, to ſave the Mother and Infant, ſhe has been deficient in her Duty, and deſerves to be puniſhed; for, on the Deflux of the Waters, or immediately afterwards, it is very likely that both

the Mother and Infant might have been ſaved; for the Woman, by a well-experienced Hand, might have been delivered in about an Hour's time: for tho', when the Womb is thus poſited, there is greater Danger in relation to the Infant, and greater Labour, Skill and Dexterity to deliver ſuch a Woman, than if the Womb had been rightly placed; and yet for all that, ſuch a Delivery may, by a skilful Hand, be performed in an Hour's Time, and ſometimes in a little more, or a little leſs than an Hour. By comparing all things, it will appear, that ſuch a Delivery may be performed in leſs than in an Hour; but, after long delays, the thing proves quite otherwiſe. This being allowed, it certainly may be determined by Inſpection, whether the Woman, with the Child within her, was loſt by the Careleſſneſs of the Midwife.

The Third Degree.

When by Inſpection of a dead Body it appears, that the Womb had a perverſe Poſiture, and that the Infant's Head lay with its Crown or otherwiſe on the *Pelvis*, and at the ſame time remained appreſſed on ſome one of the *Oſſa Pelvis*, and not fallen down into the *Pelvis*; the queſtion then again is, whether the Midwife knew this

Poſiture

Poſiture of the Womb and Infant, or not? If not, I ask, whether ſhe knew the great Danger that was in ſuch a Poſiture? If not, ſhe is ignorant of her Art; if ſhe knew it, ſhe dealt very perfidiouſly, by not acquainting the Woman and her Relations, and perſuading them to ſend ſpeedily for ſome one, who might, upon the Deflux of the Waters, or immediately afterwards, deliver the Woman, not without hopes of ſaving both Mother and Child.

For tho' this Poſiture bring more Difficulty to a Maſter in this Art than the preceding, the Woman may notwithſtanding alſo be delivered in an Hour's time; but in this Poſiture the Infant is more in danger than in the preceding. If the Midwife does not declare the Danger of this Poſiture, nor deſire Aſſiſtance, ſhe is guilty of the Murder of the Mother and Infant, and deſervedly ought to be puniſhed; and becauſe, by inſpecting the Body, this Poſiture may be evidently known, hence therefore it alſo plainly appears, that by Inſpection we may be certainly aſſured in this Caſe, that the Mother and *Fœtus* did not die a natural death, but by the Careleſſneſs of the Midwife.

And becauſe, by Inſpection of the Body, this deſtructive and deteſtable Negligence might be detected, and certainly known; I leave it to the Deliberation of

all Magiſtrates, who have the Cauſe of Religion at Heart, whether to ſave ſo many Women and Children, this Practice does not deſerve to be admitted? with equal, certainly, or greater Reaſon, than the Inſpection of a Body of any one that has been drowned, ſtabbed, or poiſoned; becauſe a great many more Women and Infants periſh by the Careleſſneſs of Midwives, than thoſe who die by other means, whoſe Bodies are inſpected.

The Fourth Degree.

When, on inſpecting of a Body, it appears, that one or both Arms hang without the Orifice of the Womb, and the Woman die thus undelivered, which clearly appears by Inſpection, the queſtion is, Whether the Midwife, as ſoon as ſhe found out this Poſiture of the Infant, knew its Danger? If not, ſhe is ignorant of her Art; if ſhe knew it, the queſtion is, whether ſhe told this Danger to the Woman and her Relations, and deſired Aſſiſtance to deliver the Woman, which might have been done in an Hour's time, with great hopes of ſaving the Mother and *Fœtus*? If ſhe did, ſhe is unblameable; if not, ſhe deſerves to be puniſhed, and that on a double account, if ſhe pulled the Arm of the Infant, yet alive, in order, that ways,

to

to draw him out duplicated : An Act horrid and abominable ! which tho' it be commonly enough practiſed by Midwives, yet highly deſerves ſevere Animadverſion, nay, ought to be puniſhed by Laws to be enacted for that purpoſe ; for it was ſhe that killed the Child, and was the Cauſe, as much as in her lay, that the Woman died with the Child within her ; and no one skilled in the Art can deny, but that by Inſpection it may in this Caſe be clearly known, whether the Midwife was not the Cauſe of the Deſtruction of Both.

Perhaps ſome People might ask theſe Queſtions following, *viz.*

I. Whether it is never in any Caſe lawful for a Midwife to pull or protract the Arm of an Infant, as long as it is alive, that ſhe may draw out the Infant thus duplicated, in order this way to deliver the Mother ?

II. Whether it is not lawful for a Phyſician to aſſiſt the Midwife in this Caſe, by giving the Woman in Labour ſuch Medicines, as may ſtimulate and incite her Pains ?

I make Anſwer to theſe Queſtions, with a Mind fully convinced and informed of the true Nature of the Caſe : I ſay then, that they commit a moſt abominable Crime, and not

not ſufficiently to be puniſhed by the ſevereſt Laws, who thus rudely protract the Arm of a living Infant, that he might thus be brought forth duplicated; for while they do this, they kill the Child, and expoſe the Mother to the danger of death. And as it is unlawful voluntarily to kill an Infant, ſo with parity of reaſon is it as unlawful thus to protract a duplicated Infant, inaſmuch as death immediately muſt enſue: as we ought not to give any Aſſiſtance to one who would commit Murder, ſo it is as little lawful for a Phyſician to aſſiſt or aid a Midwife, who meditates on ſuch horrid and deteſtable Actions, by giving the Woman in Labour ſuch Medicines as are apt to ſtimulate and provoke her Pains.

I have found by Experience, that an Infant coming out with his Arm, and ſtrongly retained in the Womb, if the Arm be not protracted or twiſted, may live two Days or longer; nay, may be brought into the World alive, without any Tumour or *Paralyſis* of the Arm, provided he be inverted by a skilful Hand, and drawn forth by the Feet: on the contrary, if a Midwife thus protract an Infant, he dies in a few Hours time, becauſe the Arm being hereby rendered thicker, ſwells and grows hard; and unleſs the Infant be quickly drawn forth, the Arm is ſeized with a Gangrene, which having begun firſt in the Arm, diſperſes itſelf

ſelf along the Neck, Heart and Head of the Infant, all along the Navel ſtring, then in the *Secundines*, and thence into the Womb; ſo that the Infant rots with an intolerable Stench, and then both Mother and Infant periſh; and thus the Midwife is the Cauſe of this Murder.

Since things are ſo, we may undoubtedly know by Inſpection, whether the Mother and *Fœtus* died naturally, or ſadly periſhed by the Careleſſneſs and cruel Hand of the Midwife.

The Midwives, perhaps, will make anſwer, to excuſe themſelves, that tho' by thus protracting the Arm they may kill the Child, yet they do not deſerve to be puniſhed, becauſe they cannot draw out a duplicated Infant otherwiſe, than by thus taking hold of the Arm; and conſequently are blameleſs, becauſe it is always better to kill the Infant in order to ſave the Mother, than that Both ſhould die deſtitute of Help, and that it is manifeſt from Experiments, that ſometimes duplicated Infants have paſt through, with preſervation of the Mother's Life.

I never denied, but that they have very often drawn out duplicated Infants, and the Mother ſurvived, tho' delivered after a perverſe Method; but how often does the contrary happen, and to how many Women has this Method been deſtructive? How many Women, after vain Labours, have periſhed

riſhed with the *Fœtus* within them, I ſhall not tell, leaving it to thoſe who were preſent thereat. This only I ſhall ſay, that this will be the Caſe when ever this perverſe Method of delivering Women ſhall be inſtituted, and whenever it is fruitleſly attempted.

A duplicated Infant may be drawn forth, if the Capacity of the *Pelvis* exceed the Bulk of the Child, if the Woman has ſufficient Strength left her, her Pains ſtrong: for in this Caſe an Infant may indeed be expreſſed, but the Infant always dies, and the Mother runs the riſque of her Life.

But, on the contrary, if the Capacity of the *Pelvis* be of leſs Extent than the Bulk or *Moles* of the Infant, the Pains rare and feeble, and her Strength fail; all things are made uſe of in vain, and the Woman dies with the Child within her.

Any one, tho' but of an indifferent Genius, hence clearly diſcerns, that what the Midwives do, depends entirely upon Chance, ſince they do not know what things are neceſſarily Requiſite to ſuch a Birth, and what not; and therefore the good or bad Succeſs of this perverſe Labour is altogether what they are Strangers to, and at beſt the thing remains very doubtful.

The queſtion now is, whether with prudence ſuch a perverſe Operation may be inſtituted; and if it be lawful to kill an Infant with ſuch and ſo extreme an Ambiguity or Doubt-

Doubtfulneſs of Succeſs, eſpecially if ſuch Delivery might be attempted with great Hopes of ſaving both Mother and Infant; and all this to be done in an Hour's time, that is, if it be attempted in due Time.

I do not deny, but that, if it cannot be otherwiſe, it would be better to kill the Infant, than that both Mother and the Infant ſhould periſh together. But this is not what we talk of at preſent, ſince there is a ſafer Method of delivering the Woman, not without great hopes of ſaving both Mother and Infant; the Woman may really immediately, in leſs than an Hour, be delivered of a live Child, provided it be inverted and drawn forth by the Feet with a skilful Hand: But to this the Midwives oppoſe themſelves, thinking, an Infant is not to be inverted, as long as he lives, but rather kill the Infant, while they hope to draw him out duplicated; and at the ſame time expoſe the Mother to Danger, that they might not be looked upon as uncapable of their Office. But when they can neither do this, then they think it yet timely enough to ſend for one more skilful than themſelves, not reflecting, that the Woman's Strength has now failed her; who then moſt commonly dies immediately upon her Delivery, not conſidering that the Mother is murdered with her Infant partly by Neglect, and partly by ſuch cruel Tortures.

May God grant, our moſt illuſtrious Magiſtrates, on whom it is incumbent to conſult the common Good, that their Eyes at length may be opened, ſo as to prohibit this deteſtable Method of delivering Women, and puniſh thoſe who ſhall be found guilty in ſo doing: for, on Inſpecting of a dead Body, they may certainly know, whether the Mother and *Fœtus* periſhed by the Negligence or Miſtake of the Midwife. Nay, without inſpecting the Body, this may be determined, provided Phyſicians would be preſent, where I am bringing ſuch Infants into the World; then let them, after the Birth, with me examine the dead Infant and *Secundines*, and I will clearly demonſtrate, that theſe Infants did not die a natural death, but of a Gangrene, which began from the torn Arm: it will alſo thence appear, how neceſſary an Inſpection would be. But this Teſtimony I muſt give to Truth, and ſay, that the greateſt Number, by far, of ſuch Infants coming out with their Arm, and which afterwards they drew out by Inverſion, died of the Gangrene; which not without great Trouble of Mind I beheld, and often groaned within my ſelf, ſeeing no Remedy, whereby I might hinder this Deſtruction of ſo many Children, 'till at length it came into my mind, to propoſe an Inſpection of the dead Body, that this deteſtable and moſt to be abo-

abominated Practice might be forbidden by publick Authority of the Laws.

But if theſe faithful Admonitions do not as yet move the Magiſtracy to take due Care to prevent this Slaughter of Infants, I would adviſe all Husbands, whoſe Wives are in Travail, that they would diligently inculcate into the Midwife they make uſe of, that ſhe would immediately tell them, when ſhe firſt perceives the Arm to come forth. Then I adviſe them not to ſuffer the Midwife to draw out the Infant duplicated (or double) but let them lay the Woman quietly on the Bed, and without delay ſend for one more skilful, who may invert the Infant, and draw him forth by the Feet; ſo will there be great Hopes of ſaving Both, and the Woman will in no wiſe be ſo wretchedly puniſhed, nor her Strength fail her ſo much as in the preceding Caſe: for ſhe may be delivered in leſs than an Hour's time.

Before I ſhall diſmiſs this Subject of the Deſtruction of Children occaſioned by breaking the Arm ſo rudely pulled forward, I ſhall touch in a few Words upon the Murders of Children occaſioned by the Midwives hurting their Heads, whence a Gangrene ſeizes upon the Head, and the Infant dies: But this alſo may be detected on Inſpecting the Body.

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The Fifth Degree.

No one can deny, but that by Inſpection of the dead Body, it may clearly enough be diſcovered, whether the Head of the Infant be hurt; that is, whether it be contuſed, or compreſſed, and hence the Bones paſs mutually over one another, or the Skin of the Head be cut or torn aſunder; or whether the Menynges are perforated, or the Brain wholly, or in part be extracted or drawn out, and conſequently the Infant to have been in the worſt manner ill treated and puniſhed; for ſuch Caſes, I grieve to to ſpeak it! I have too often found: But if theſe things had happened only to Infants already dead, they might have been in ſome meaſure pardoned, tho' I think nothing of this nature ought to be ſuffered to be practiſed by any Midwife; for who can hear without horror ſome Midwives thus cruelly butcher and mangle live Infants alſo?

It will, perhaps, be anſwered, that there is no doubt to be made, but that by Inſpecting of a dead Body, we may ſee, whether the Head of the Infant be hurt, or not; but that it ſeems altogether dubious, whether we can certainly determine, a live Infant has been ſo cruelly puniſhed by the Midwife; and therefore it will be asked, whence

it

it is we can for certain know, that the Child periſhed by the Hand of the Midwife?

To this Queſtion I anſwer, It does not ſo eaſily appear at firſt View, whether a live Infant had been ſo cruelly tortured by the Midwife, and that this requires a greater Attentionof Mind,than if an Infant ſhould have periſhed by his Arms, being violently pulled and protracted. However, if this be not always, yet may it for the moſt part be diſcerned: for live Infants, when rudely handled by Midwives, die of the Gangrene, or Mortification, which always begins from the part which is hurt, and the Point where it received ſuch Hurt. If the Arm be hurt, the Gangrene begins in the Arm; if the Head be contuſed, or any otherways hurt, the Gangrene begins there, and in that very place where the Midwife had ſo ill treated it. But if any other Member of the Body be hurt, the Gangrene thence ariſes; and this clearly appears, for thoſe Signs are not found in an Infant, who died of a natural Death, much leſs if he had been alive a little before. Since therefore all things above-mentioned may be demonſtrated on inſpecting of a dead Body, I conclude Inſpection to be neceſſary, and in the higheſt degree beneficial, if it be admitted, and the World will thereby reap the following Advantages.

I.

The Faults of Midwives would be detected by theſe means, and then the Dread of Puniſhment would deter them from committing ſuch deteſtable Crimes, to the ruin of Mothers and Children; which now, by want of Inſpection, lie hidden, undiſcovered, and paſs with Impunity.

II.

By Inſpection it would evidently appear, what Midwives duly and rightly performed the Work committed to their Care, and who neglected it.

III.

The blame-worthy Deſtruction of ſo many Women of Rank and Faſhion, and the not enough to be deteſted Slaughter of ſo many innocent Infants, would evidently appear by Inſpection, and might be puniſhed; and would ſerve as an Example to the Negligent and Careleſs, and ſpur them on to the Obſervance of their Duty.

IV.

Raſh Midwives, and ſuch who are ignorant of their Art, being thus known, might be avoided; but the prudent and religious, be ſent for.

V.

Many unskilful Midwives, who are ſuch now, would for fear of Puniſhment learn better, read over good Authors, and make uſe

uſe of all Helps and Remedies to become more skilful, ſince now they lead only a mere idle and lazy Life, becauſe their Crimes and Errors lie undiſcovered, and unpuniſhed, Inſpection being not admitted.

VI.

Midwives, through fear of Puniſhment, would be obliged in time to warn the lying-in Woman, and her Friends, of any imminent Danger: they would deſire timely Aid to ſave the Mother and Infant.

VII.

They would thoroughly weigh all things with greater Care, and would more anxiouſly ſearch out by the Touch the true Poſiture of the Womb and Infant, and faithfully declare it to the Woman and her Relations; nor would they deceive the Phyſician, to get from him ſtimulating Medicines: and the Phyſician himſelf would act more prudently in preſcribing of them, fearing leſt by Inſpection it may appear, that ſuch Medicines were unſeaſonably adminiſtred.

VIII.

Phyſicians might, with greater Security of Mind, acquieſce in what the Midwives ſay, and ſafely preſcribe; or, if need were, diligently counſel and perſuade a ſpeedy Delivery by a skilful Hand.

IX.

Thoſe Phyſicians, who are ſtill ſo ſtrongly prejudiced, as that they will not believe

theſe perverſe Poſitures of the Womb, may ſee them with their own Eyes, and feel them with their own Hands, and ſo be convinced; and, at the ſame time, underſtand every ill Succeſs which ariſes from theſe perverſe Poſitures of the Womb, as I have demonſtrated in this Book.

X.

Phyſicians, having clearly examined theſe perverſe Poſitures of the Womb and Infant, would evidently perceive the Advantage and Benefit, nay, the great Neceſſity of ſpeedily delivering theſe Women; and at the ſame time ſee, how much Detriment attends the Procraſtination of this ſalutary Remedy.

XI.

An evident Knowledge of a perverſe Poſiture of a Womb and Infant would ſhew Phyſicians, how neceſſary it is that Midwives ſhould be better inſtructed, and undergo a ſtricter Examination, before they be admitted to exerciſe an Art of ſuch great Moment and Concern.

XII.

A ſpeedy Delivery of Women in Labour, upon the Deflux of the Humours, or immediately after, would, without doubt, in all perverſe Poſitures of the Womb and Infant, be performed with good Succeſs.

XIII.

By Inſpection it would appear how neceſſary it is, that in every populous City ſhould dwell

dwell a skilful Maſter in this Art, who might immediately attend, that no Opportunity of a quick Birth might elapſe, as wou'd be the Caſe were any one to be ſent for, from an Habitation of ſeveral Miles diſtance.

XIV.

This ſalutary Art of ſpeedily delivering Women would then be held in greater Eſteem, and a great many would diligently apply themſelves to ſtudy this Buſineſs; ſo ſhould we in our Country have every Year a great number of Women and their Infants ſaved, who now periſh for want of timely Aſſiſtance.

If therefore ſuch, and ſo many Benefits and Advantages are to be expected from looking into, or inſpecting dead Bodies, of which no one can doubt; I leave it with all due Reverence to our moſt illuſtrious Magiſtrates, whether or not, for the Publick Good, the Profit and Advantage of the Subject, the promoting of true Science, the Conſervation of our deareſt Pledges, (*viz.* our Wives and Children) ſuch Inſpection ought not to be admitted and practiſed.

I know, to this there may be objected a great many Difficulties; but I alſo know that all of them being duly examined and weighed in the Balance of ſtrict Reaſon, it will ſufficiently appear, that theſe Difficulties

are not in the leaſt equivalent to the Benefits and Advantages that will accrue by this Inſpection, eſpecially if it be done without any Expence to the Subject; for which Reaſons, may be thereto admitted the moſt famous Profeſſors, Readers, and generally skilled Doctors of the Faculty, and Maſters of the Art of Midwifery, if they ſhould be at hand, or any other able Men, whom the Magiſtracy might for that end appoint, and who, for Love of the Publick-Weal, would willingly undertake this ſo laudable an Office of the Art: And I leave it to your Judgment, whether or no ſuch Inſpection ſhould not be performed before ſome Midwives, eſpecially before her who attended the Woman to the time of her death? Would not the Inſpection of a dead Body in the higheſt degree be uſeful to them? Certainly, this would be the beſt Method to imprint on their Minds a true Idea of the Structure of the genital Parts of Women, which, without the Inſpection of a dead Body, cannot by reading alone be ſo well acquired; and hereby might they exerciſe their Art with greater Confidence.

For a Concluſion, I ſhall only add, that I hope every one's Eyes may be opened, and ſee that it is not ſufficient here to complain, that almoſt in all Cities and Villages there are found ſo many unskilful Midwives, and ſo many Mothers and Infants periſh by

their

their Negligence, if they believe what I here ſay: for it is certainly true, and much to be lamented, nay, and very often Matter of extreme Grief to Children deprived of their Mothers, and to Husbands to have their Wives thus taken away, by the Errors and Careleſſneſs of ſuch unskilful and ignorant Midwives. I ſay therefore, that theſe Complaints are not ſufficient, but that a way more ſafe ought with mature Deliberation be inquired into; firſt, that this mortal Evil be prohibited; ſecondly, that it be corrected and puniſhed. The beſt and moſt excellent Remedy of this dreadful Evil would be obtained by Inſpection; which, if not admitted, all other Remedies will, I am afraid, prove uſeleſs and of no effect.

There may, beſides Inſpection, ſome other neceſſary things be made uſe of; but of theſe I ſhall not diſcourſe in this place: for now I have disburthened my Soul, and witneſſed the Truth. If I am not credited, and theſe faithful Admonitions be deſpiſed, yet ſhall I appear faithful to God, that I have put out my Talent to Uſury, and as much as hath been in my power, faithfully demonſtrated not only this mortal Evil, which ſo commonly prevails the whole World over, but have alſo declared that great and certain Remedy of this ſame Evil; leaving the Execution of it to thoſe, whom God hath ordained to be the Fathers of the Country, and Guardians

and Sollicitors of the Publick Good; ſubſcribing my ſelf, with all due Reverence and Submiſſion, their faithful Subject, and in all things their ready and obedient Servant,

H. V. Deventer, M. D.

FINIS.

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THE END.

ERRATA.

In the Dedication, p. vii. l. 19. for *theatrical* r. *theoretical*. p. 11. l. 25. for *Fraction* r. *Traction*. p. 15. l. 19. after *gently* blot out *to*. p. 37. l. 16. after *Favour* blot out *yet*. p. 40. l. 16. before *unavoidably* blot out *she*. p. 48. l. 17. for *Kin* r. *Skin*. p. 86. l. 9. before *yet* blot out *and*.